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Algeria-Iran

Iran has expelled seven Algerian diplomats "as a preliminary step" to suspending relations with Algeria, according to Algiers radio, which cited AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. Earlier this week Algeria decided to "scale down" its diplomatic representation in Iran to protest Tehran's alleged "interference and hostility." The paper claims information from the Iranian Foreign Ministry reveals that "Tehran is determined to continue supporting extremist Islamic groups in Algeria."

Libya

In a speech broadcast live by Tripoli television, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi proposed that Libyan oil revenues disposable after the nation pays for public necessities "be divided among Libyan families, in cash." He estimated that, depending on oil prices and sales, each Libyan family would receive between $7,000 and $10,000 "in hard currency." "The ultimate aim is to see the masses rich and not toilers," al-Qadhdhafi explained, and he stressed that mechanisms would have to be devised to prevent families from squandering their shares to the detriment of the nation. Earlier in his speech to the General People's Congress, the Libyan leader discusses how inequalities lead to rebellion. Regarding Libyan defense spending he admitted: "We went too far in this but it was the thing that made our enemies stay at arms length for 20 years."

Afghanistan

A bomb exploded at the Defense Ministry building in Kabul, according to an Afghan Defense Ministry source cited by Tehran radio. Two people were killed and seven injured in the explosion, the clandestine Radio Message of Freedom reports, and "serious" damage was done to the building. The clandestine radio adds that the explosion is "the result of internal differences between members of the coalition administration which have been going on for some time."

Arab-Israeli Talks

7th Round of Talks End With Little Progress

JN2011074592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations on all tracks ended in Washington last night. Thus, Arab negotiators have ended a whole month of talks with the Israeli side without achieving any real progress on any of the four tracks. This is due to differences in viewpoints between Arab and Israeli sides.

The participating Arab delegations insist on their consistent stand toward these negotiations, a stand that seeks to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the various tracks based on the peace terms stipulated by UN resolutions. Meanwhile, the Israeli side did not show any positive signs to indicate the extent of its commitment to the peace process.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, expressed this in his press statement after the end of the final session yesterday. He said: I cannot say that there is clear progress on the Jordanian track. However, I believe that the exchange of information and concepts on the issues under discussion was useful. He added: We have informed the Israeli side that it is necessary to end the discussion on our proposed agenda. We expect the Israeli side to respond so we can discuss more substantial issues in the next round.

Dr. al-Majali noted that he met with Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Edward Djerejian. Al-Majali said: This meeting takes place at the end of each round. During it, we brief the U.S. sponsor on what has been done and put him in the picture. We also listen to his viewpoints.

Dr. al-Majali said that Djerejian clearly affirmed that the current U.S. Administration is continuing its support for the peace negotiations. Moreover, he added, the new administration will seriously work to give momentum to the peace process.

On another development, Arab chief delegates will hold a news conference at the National Press Club today to discuss the course of negotiations with the Israeli side on all tracks.

Al-'Allaf Says Israel Offered No New Ideas

JN2011081692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Washington—The seventh round of Middle East peace talks ended yesterday, almost one month after they began. Twelve sessions were held in this round of talks, which was interrupted by a 10-day recession.

The seventh round of talks ended without achieving any progress because of the Israeli side's evasion of commitment to a basic pillar of the peace process, namely, complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

At the request of the U.S. sponsor of the peace process, it has been agreed in principle to begin the 10-day eighth round of peace talks on 7 December. The actual decision to convene this round of talks will be left to the governments involved.

In this round's final session—between the Syrian Arab delegation and the Israeli side—the same topics discussed in previous days, particularly the issue of complete withdrawal and peace, were discussed again. The basic elements, which each party feels necessary to move forward, also were specified.

Following the session, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, stated that the Syrian delegation had stressed that there are certain substantial issues that must be addressed before entering into any details or matters not related directly to the peace process.

Al-'Allaf added: Primary among these issues is complete withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967. The second issue is that this withdrawal would make it possible to reach a state of peace.

Al-'Allaf was asked if the head of the Israeli delegation had indeed presented those new ideas which he had said before the session convened that he would raise to pave the ground for progress in the next round. Al-'Allaf said: No, we did not heard these new ideas that might help us move in the next round.

Asked if he thinks it will be possible to make any progress in the peace process before the end of U.S. President Bush's term in office, al-'Allaf said: For our part, we always hope there will be a breakthrough in the talks. If we come back in December, we will not be coming here only to say we showed up, but will be coming back to try to achieve progress. I think it will be useful if all the parties seek to achieve some progress in the last few weeks in the current U.S. Administration's term in office because this will make things easier for the next administration.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf met yesterday with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. He briefed Djerejian on the progress of talks in the current round.

Rabbinovich Blames Syria for Lack of Progress

TA1911193692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] The peace talks will resume in Washington on 7 December, and the Israeli delegation expects the eighth round to be more successful that the seventh, which is due to end in several hours without making progress. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan sums up the current round of talks:

[Begin recording] [Gelat] The only positive angle of the seventh round of the Washington talks was the meeting with the Jordanians, where real and detailed negotiations started dealing with the first issue on the joint agenda: the water problems.

The Israeli-Syrian track, which carried high expectations, is stuck. Moustafa al-'Allaf and his colleagues, who heard a six-hour pep talk from their President Hafiz al-Asad before returning to the talks two weeks ago, were not satisfied with the element of withdrawal Itamar Rabinovich provided them, and wanted an Israeli declaration of a total withdrawal, no less. The result was deadlock.

[Rabinovich] This was probably the instruction they received, the result of which is clear: Not much progress was made in this round of talks because we will not drop our unequivocal demand to understand just what kind of peace the Syrians are talking about. In the same context, another move was made outside the talks, by the prime minister, who publicly leveled harsh criticism at Syrian President al-Asad for the general manner in which they are conducting the talks. Nevertheless, he also provided the Syrians with very clear hints about what they should do to give the talks some momentum. He spoke of a gesture, of the need to clarify their concept of peace.

So, here we have, on the one hand, a determined stand and a readiness to level accusations and criticism at anyone the prime minister considers as deserving of it for their conduct. On the other hand, there is this very clear signal that we want to continue progressing, but in a predefined way and following a style that has proven correct in the past.

[Gelat] Now that the delegates are bidding each other farewell and will soon go to say goodbye to Edward Djerejian, who supervises the talks on behalf of the U.S. Administration, all the signals and hints will be postponed until the next round on 7 December. The United States suggested it, Israel agreed first, and Moustafa al- 'Allaf announced this evening that the Syrians will show up.

Israeli sources this evening expressed the hope that the eighth round of talks would be more productive than the current round and not be marked by a waiting-for-Clinton mood. [end recording]

'Ashrawi on Continuing Talks, Israeli Position

TA1911191092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Syria says it is ready to return for more peace talks next month in Washington. The final discussions of the current round are taking place at this hour in the American capital. An Israeli delegation spokesperson says the announcement should not be viewed as a sign of progress. Palestinian spokesperson Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi says the current round of talks has been a disappointment. David Zi'v reports.

[Begin recording] [Zi'v] At the Israeli press center in Washington, spokesperson Ruth Yaron says the Syrian announcement to return December 7th does not signal progress.

[Yaron] I would not see this too much as an indication of progress, but I would hope that the next round in December is going to be with a little more progress than what we have achieved so far.

[Zi'v] Also in Washington, Palestinian spokesperson Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi says the Palestinians have not officially decided whether they will come back next month.

['Ashrawi] Well, the Palestinians first of all have to take an independent decision that pertains to the course of negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and that decision, as you know, has to be taken by the political leadership.

[Zi'v] So, in other words, there will have to be talks in Tunis first before you give an official answer.

['Ashrawi] That is right.

[Zi'v] 'Ashrawi says there will also be a coordinating meeting of all the Arab sides in the negotiations to decide on future steps. She expresses anger over the negotiations in the current round ending tonight. She accuses the Israelis of trying to force an agreement on an interim arrangement that legitimizes Israeli settlements in the territories and that would rule out a Palestinian state in the final arrangement.

['Ashrawi] Exactly. They are absolutely preemptive, because they are based on fragmentation, the dissection of the land, the legitimizing of settler activity and presence. Actually, they are more concerned about creating autonomy for the settlers rather than discussing interim self-government authority for the Palestinians.

[Zi'v] Ruth Yaron, at the Israeli press center, says there has been progress with the Jordanians.

[Yaron] We are already discussing various items on the agenda, and the most important one of them is the issue of water. So in the last couple of days we have had our water experts giving presentations and discussing with their peers and colleagues from the Jordanian delegation about real issues and substance.

[Zi'v] The heads of the Israeli negotiating teams are meeting tonight with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian. The teams return home tomorrow. [end recording]

Lebanese, Israelis Discuss Military Experts

NC2011071592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Ambassador Suheyl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral talks with Israel in Washington, said following yesterday's session that the

two sides continued discussion of the Israeli proposal to include military experts in the negotiations.

He said Lebanon has maintained its stand—namely, that the political framework for inviting the experts to join the general meeting should be defined. He added that the Israelis explained the difference between the proposal they made in August and the new one. He went on to say that Lebanon needs time to study the proposal for discussion in the eighth round of talks.

Israel's delegation spokesman (Yoni Gal) said that his delegation presented a settlement proposal to the Lebanese team that calls for setting up a military working group within the general framework and that this proposal still is being discussed.

Jordan Transmitting Solution for 70,000 Refugees

TA2011110592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Nov 92 p A7

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] The Jordanian Government is demanding that a solution be found for approximately 70,000 Palestinian residents of the territories who have been "stuck" in Jordan since the beginning of the 1970's after their Israeli-issued exit visas expired. In an interview to HA'ARETZ, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, the head of the Jordanian delegation to the multilateral talks on refugee affairs in Ottawa, said that Jordan would block any attempts to make progress in the talks as long as Israel refused to discuss the issue or permit these Palestinians to return to their homes.

Jordan can disrupt the discussions of the working group because the basic principles of the multilateral talks stipulate that agreements can only be reached with the consent of all the parties. To all intents and purposes, any party can veto a proposal merely by expressing its opposition.

Al-'Anani's insistence on this issue during the working group's meetings in Ottawa last week forced the talks into a deadlock, and no understandings were reached during the last session. The Jordanian delegation to the talks also refused to agree to the other three issues on the agenda. Al-'Anani told HA'ARETZ afterwards that he would also foil any attempt to reach agreement on other issues during the next meeting of the working group in Oslo in February 1993. He proposed raising the issue of the 70,000 Palestinians at the next round of bilateral talks between Israel and Jordan in Washington in December, if those indeed take place.

Al-'Anani, who is also a senior member of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral talks, said he and his colleagues had briefly discussed the matter during last Tuesday's bilateral talks with Israeli negotiators. He asserted that Jordan was not placing any conditions on its talks with Israel, since both parties have promised to negotiate without preconditions; however, because this issue is of both practical and symbolic importance, Jordan will not forgo its demand to resolve the problem.

The crisis at the Ottawa talks received hardly any publicity, because the media was focused on the other incident which took place during the talks: the participation of Palestine National Council member Muhammad al-Hallaj. The Jordanian opposition on the issue of family reunifications, however, as well as the issue of the aforementioned 70,000 refugees, had a much greater impact on the course of the discussions. This issue led to a stalemate and is now threatening to disrupt the next meeting of the working group on refugee affairs in Oslo. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Groups To Boycott Tunis Meeting

NC2011073992 Paris AFP in English 0114 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Nicosia, Nov 20 (AFP)—Four Syrian-based PLO member organizations announced Thursday they would boycott a meeting later this week between the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks.

In a statement sent to AFP's Nicosia bureau, the four groups said they would not attend the November 21-24 meeting called by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunis in protest over "concessions" made by the Palestinian delegation during the seventh round of Middle East peace talks, which ended Thursday in Washington.

Muhammad Subayh, secretary to the Palestine National Council—the PLO parliament-in-exile—called the Tunis meeting on Tuesday to appraise the results of the latest round of peace talks.

Thursday's statement was signed by George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine headed by Nayif Hawatmah, the Palestinian Liberation Front and the Front for the Popular Palestinian Struggle.

The four groups said they refused to "endorse the compromises already agreed on during the 7th session" of bilateral talks with Israel and the "decision to continue negotiations on a procedure destined to fail."

They appealed to the "Tunis leadership and the negotiating team to announce their withdrawal from the talks."

The statement objected to "a series of concessions to Israeli conditions", particularly regarding the background of acceptable participants to the talks and the issue of Palestinian autonomy.

The four also denounced the Palestinian leadership's silence on the Israeli-Jordanian agreement on a peace agenda and intervention by Egypt to broker a deal with

Israel on Palestinian autonomy in line with the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreements signed at Camp David in September 1978.

PFLP-GC Denies Intent To Attend

JN1811183292 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] A responsible source at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has denied news agency reports citing the Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ that a representative of the PFLP-GC will attend a Palestinian meeting in Tunis. The source said these reports are unfounded and fabricated.

'Arafat Criticizes Israeli Position at Talks

NC1911181092 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 16 Nov 92 pp 6-8

[Report on an interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by ROSE AL-YUSUF correspondent Ahmad Hamrush, in Tunis on 8 November 1992—punctuation as published]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I found Yasir 'Arafat sitting amid a group of young men, finishing off various items of work in the study of his modest home in Tunis. Behind him was a large portrait of Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque. The Palestinian president was busy turning the pages of the "Jerusalem Koran," copies of which are being sent as gifts to the Muslims in the Central Asian Republics. After he was finished with the Koran, we started our dialogue, which naturally began with a discussion of the seventh round of bilateral negotiations set to begin in Washington the following day. The Palestinian delegation had spent several days in Tunis for discussions with the PLO leadership.

Yasir 'Arafat said in a clearly bitter tone:

There has been no change since the sixth round. The Israeli delegation has not submitted proposals responsive to the wish to establish a peaceful settlement. This makes us feel that the negotiations are arduous and complex. We need patience and self-restraint. We have to steel ourselves for a long battle, particularly as this is the first time we are negotiating.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] continued: If we are not patient, how can we tolerate Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks comparing our cause to that of the Basques and Kurds. He still uses the term Palestinians instead of Palestinian people.

He presumed: Can our people, whose territory was occupied, be described like that? Does this not show that Yitzhaq Rabin still clings to outdated concepts? Furthermore, why is there a difference between the terminology used by the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister, who always uses the term (the Palestinian people)?

Abu-'Ammar continued to analyze the situation: Our agreement with the United States and Russia, the conference sponsors, called for an agreement within one year. That meant 30 October. However, Israeli methods have let the year pass without moving closer to a settlement. This is why I sent letters to Bush and Yeltsin reminding them of this. I also sent messages to the UN Security Council members, the EC, the nonaligned countries, EFTA [European Free Trade Association] that is the non-EC northern European countries, and to African, Islamic, and Arab states.

'Arafat's is not satisfied with merely sending messages that have so far found little response. He has started to demand the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 605, 608, 681, and 726, which call for the presence of UN forces, saying that these forces must be deployed while negotiations are ongoing. The United Nations was present at the multilateral negotiations' economic development discussions in Paris last month. It participated in these discussions although it was absent from the Madrid Conference on Yitzhaq Shamir's insistence.

'Arafat told me: A UN presence is needed... needed... needed.

I asked the Palestinian president why the United Nations was present at the Paris discussions after being absent all this time from the remainder of the negotiations?

He replied in a whisper: I have no convincing answer. However, the EC wants to play a more active role in the peace talks.

I asked Abu-'Ammar: If this is the European stance, what will the new U.S. Administration's position under Bill Clinton be? What will its position be regarding a UN presence and numerous other issues?

When I asked Abu-'Ammar this question, he presented me with the text of the cable he sent to the president-elect (Bill Clinton), which says:

"Our Palestinian people are looking to you to strengthen the basis of legitimacy and the UN resolutions to end the Israeli occupation and provide protection to our people against the daily violation of their national and human rights, according to the international conventions and resolutions. Our people will work to achieve a just peace in the region, and we will do all we can to ensure the peace process, which seriously began under the auspices of his excellency President George Bush and according to the basis and principles he announced, will achieve a just and fair solution to all."

Yasir 'Arafat continues this message, saying, "We, therefore, look forward to the resumption of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO for the sake of promoting the peace process."

With this introduction, Yasir 'Arafat also says: We are confident that the American people support the establishment of just peace in the Middle East—and the

president always expresses the view of his people. This is the position of the PLO, which has appreciated the role of President George Bush and is looking forward to the resumption of the dialogue with America, hoping that Clinton will continue the American role in supporting the peace settlement.

This comparison, which I did not want to mention, led me to talk about the Arab situation. I asked 'Arafat: What is your opinion of the current Arab situation?

He replied: "We shall be sold in the slave markets of the new world order unless we quickly restore Arab solidarity."

How, O Abu-'Ammar, is this be possible when the Gulf crisis has caused unprecedented division?

I think we must hold meetings among seven parties—the five cordon states (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine), a representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and another of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Abu-'Ammar continued in a voice not devoid of clear agony: We are holding a dialogue with the Israelis but cannot hold a dialogue among ourselves.

He added: The negotiations have melted the ice in the Arab arena. Four Arab states are taking part in the bilateral negotiations and 16 others in the multilateral negotiations. These countries, which sit with Israel at the negotiating table, must sit together first to coordinate their positions.

I asked him: Do you keep this idea to yourself?

He said: No. I propound it to everyone with whom I meet. But I look to the support of Egypt, which we trust as a strong state that maintains good relations with all and has a president who cares about the restoration of Arab solidarity. President Hosni Mubarak's positions in this regard are historic and clear. I frankly say that Egypt has a role in helping restore Arab solidarity and peace. We look with appreciation to this role.

'Arafat concluded his remarks by affirming that the Egyptian role has become effective in the peace negotiations, which will undoubtedly be reflected in the bilateral and the multilateral negotiations and in the consultations among the Arabs. [passage omitted]

Hamas Urges Jordan To Withdraw From Negotiations

PM1911152492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Denouncing Agenda Agreement, Hamas Urges Jordan To Withdraw From Negotiations"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has denounced the Jordanian-Palestinian [as published] agreement on the peace negotiations' agenda. In a statement it urged Amman to withdraw from the negotiations. The movement issued a statement in Amman in which it said: Despite Jordan's participation in the negotiations and expression of its desire to achieve progress in all the rounds held in Washington, the sudden announcement that an agreement had been reached with the Zionist delegation on the so-called negotiations agenda at the end of the first stage of the seventh round of negotiations attracted attention.

The statement went on: We of Hamas waited for a clarification of the official position of fraternal Jordan's government on this agreement, hoping that it would not be ratified, but the government kept the issue suspended. Official clarifications were issued later, confirming the agreement and defending some of the fundamental remarks made by Jordanian and Palestinian political forces, factions, and parties. [sentence as published]

According to its statement Hamas believes that this agreement's announcement—even though under the title "agenda"—involves the following dangers:

1. It is the first written agreement between a Zionist delegation and an Arab delegation since the negotiation march was launched with the convocation of the Madrid conference on 30 October 1991—which could encourage Arab conformity with Zionist demands, although the Zionist position is still the same.

2. Although the agreement was concluded under the title "agenda," it includes details for all the issues and concepts subject to negotiation. It also includes indications of the boundaries of Jordan's position on these issues—which makes the agreement tantamount to an announcement of general principles for signing a peace treaty that could end with signing a bilateral treaty along the lines of Camp David.

3. The agreement contained Jordan's backtracking on the stands it announced on the eve of agreeing to attend the Madrid conference, moving closer to Zionist demands. This backtracking takes the form of avoiding mentioning international resolutions like Resolutions 194 and 237 on the refugees and emigrants and the need to implement them; permissibility of different interpretations of some resolutions like 242 and 338; and the occupation of the territories occupied in 1967, which were only referred to as being under Israeli military rule; in addition, there is the possibility of dropping the demand for Arab Jerusalem as an occupied territory.

4. Under the political conditions in which it was issued the agreement constitutes direct pressure on the Palestinian delegation to make further concessions to the the Zionist delegation and to hastily accept the self-administration plan in all its Zionist details.

5. The agreement is regarded generally as an indication of Jordan's willingness to recognize the state of the Zionist entity, normalize relations with it, and turn the Arab-Israeli conflict into a partial dispute over border

questions on which a understanding can be reached, when it is a struggle for existence and destiny.

On that basis, Hamas disapproves of the agreement of financial Jordan's government on that and urges it to reject the draft agreement and to withdraw from the negotiations. It has become clear to everyone that they have achieved nothing and that the Zionist enemy's aim is to secure official Arab recognition.

Spokesmen on Relations Between Fatah, Hamas

PM1011141292 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Nov 92 pd

[Reports by 'Ali al-Salih in London and Muhammad 'Ali al-Qalyubi in Tunis: "Gharaibah: No Meeting Before Withdrawal of Threats; 'Abd-al-Fattah: We Reject Subservience and Troublemaking"]

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meeting which was supposed to take place in the Sudanese capital yesterday between Fatah leader Yasir 'Arafat and Hamas leaders did not materialize for reasons which are still unknown.

Commenting on this, a Hamas spokesman in Amman said: "There is no change in our position." He added that "the meeting supposed to take place between Hamas and Fatah's Central Committee has been postponed and Hamas has notified Fatah of that."

According to the Palestinian sources, 'Arafat had gone to Khartoum, on his way to Sanaa, to attend the meeting which was supposed to calm the situation and eliminate the Fatah-Hamas tension in the occupied territory, especially in the Gaza Strip.

Ziyad 'Abd-al-Fattah, director of the Palestinian news agency WAFA, has crossed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "Fatah is not against Hamas. That is also the position of the PLO and the Palestine National Council." He added that "Hamas is in the arms like all Palestinians. We wish to keep it that way but Hamas must accept pluralism and coexist with the others."

'Abd-al-Fattah added that "Fatah does not accept and will not allow troublemaking by Hamas in the occupied territory. Furthermore, the PLO categorically rejects Hamas' subservience to foreign parties, especially Iran." He added that " 'Arafat is as flexible as rubber and makes no preconditions for relations between Fatah or the PLO and Hamas except that the latter should not set a collision course against the Palestinian people."

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his headquarters in Amman, Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Gharaibah said that "the meeting with Fatah's Central Committee will not take place until the latter issues a statement clarifying its position regarding the statements and threats made by 'Arafat against Hamas in October and November." He added that "this has been officially conveyed to Fatah." He pointed out that there was no Hamas leadership delegation in Khartoum.

He also said that "the ball is now in Fatah's court. If 'Arafat really wants a lead-ship meeting then he must build bridges of trust by withdrawing his previous statements."

Gharaibah confirmed that Hamas does have an office in the Sudanese capital and added that "if 'Arafat wishes to put on record any criticism of Hamas by meeting with people below the leadership level, then that is another matter."

He again denied claims that Iran intended to train Hamas fighters and give them a radio and television transmitter beamed to the occupied territory. He said these reports were "untrue" and "a figment of the imaginations of those who seek to spread rumors against Hamas to cover up the failure of the peace negotiations."

Mahmud 'Abbas on 'Arafat Cairo Trip, Peace Process

PM1011154092 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14-15 Nov 92 p 3

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, by Fathi al-Bargawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Bargawi] Can it be said that President 'Arafat's recent visit to the Egyptian capital Cairo was linked with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres's visit? And is there an Egyptian role?

[Abbas] Although Egypt is not a direct party to the "bilateral" Arab-Israeli negotiations, because it reached an agreement with the Israeli Government over 10 years ago, it continues to play a pan-Arab role—which justifies its constant presence at the meetings of the Arab five-member coordination committees comprised particularly of the cordon states.

We rely on Egypt a lot in conveying our own ideas to the parties concerned. Thus we consult and coordinate with it because of the trust and credibility it enjoys among the other local and international parties. President 'Arafat's visit falls within this context.

[Al-Bargawi] Is Cairo anything new in these contacts and consultations?

[Abbas] The current negotiations in Washington are facing many obstacles created by the Israeli delegation to stop any progress in them. Early in the second part of the seventh round we noticed that the Israelis presented no new ideas that deserve to be discussed by us. Palestinian delegation. We also noticed that the Israeli delegation insisted on excluding settlement building and Jerusalem from the talks, in addition to the geographical or legal jurisdictions, the elections, and scope of autonomy powers in the transitional phase. Thus it is perhaps

necessary to find other channels—if possible—to iron out these obstacles. This is because Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, still negotiates with the mentality of a Shamir envoy, not a Rabin envoy, unless it is the Israeli prime minister who wants this.

[Al-Barqawi] Are there unofficial contacts between the PLO and Israel in Washington parallel with the declared negotiations?

['Abbas] It cannot be said that there are unofficial contacts. But there are unofficial negotiations. They are intended to discuss two questions, namely autonomy and territory and water, through two committees which usually meet after the general meetings. These unofficial negotiations are intended to give the two sides the chance to present their views more freely.

Some progress has been achieved in these negotiations, but not the required amount. However, what is happening during these negotiations is much better than what is happening in the official negotiations, which are held at a high level, as they are headed by chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, whereas the former are headed by deputy chief delegate Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

[Al-Barqawi] Talking of the delegations' level, it has been said that U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton will work to raise the level of the Arab and Israeli delegations to the negotiations. What truth is there in this?

['Abbas] What is certain to us is that the new U.S. Administration will pursue the same policy pursued by the administration of the outgoing President George Bush with regard to the peace process. As for the question of raising the negotiators' level, our information in the PLO does not exceed what we read in the media. The same applies to what was reported about Clinton's intention to send a special envoy—who could be former President Jimmy Carter—to the Middle East.

What is certain to us is that the new U.S. Administration has placed the Middle East at the forefront of its interests—which is very important to us, as it means that there will be no vacuum. And we have received promises confirming that the U.S. interest in the peace process will continue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] Does Washington try at the Palestinian-U.S. meetings to obtain other concessions or so-called "flexibility?"

['Abbas] The United States is committed to the principles of the Madrid conference, but it disagrees with the way in which the issues are handled. They are proposing more flexible methods for handling, not dealing with, the issues. The Americans acknowledge that Israeli settlements are an obstacle, that east Jerusalem is an occupied territory, and that international resolution No. 242 covers all phases. But they want flexibility in how to handle, not deal with, the issues. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Iran To 'Suspend' Relations, Back Islamists

LD2011091692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Excerpt] On the basis of information from the Iranian Foreign Ministry, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has revealed that Tehran is determined to continue supporting extremist Islamic groups in Algeria. Citing the same source, the paper said that Iran has decided to suspend its relations with Algeria and has expelled seven Algerian diplomats as a preliminary step. It also has closed down an Algerian cultural office in the capital, Tehran.

According to the newspaper, over the past three years the Iranian 5 Khordad Foundation has allocated funds worth $12 million to support terrorist elements in Algeria. [Passage omitted]

Islamic Extremists Set Up Liaison Committee

LD1711230692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] A senior Arab official has told the London-based Arabic weekly magazine AL-WASAT that extremist Islamic groups in the Arab world have set up a supreme liaison committee whose task is to consolidate the activities of their members who are spread out, overtly or covertly, in a number of Arab states.

The official fears the widening of the activity of this movement in Arab countries suffering from economic and social crises, which would foster disorder. He warned against Iran using these groups in order to create problems in some Arab countries.

Moreover, AL-HAYAH pointed out today that a senior Egyptian official has confirmed that Cairo has documents and information showing Iran's involvement in [words indistinct].

President Appoints New Justice Minister

LD1611153892 Algiers APS in Arabic 1455 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Algiers, 16 Nov (APS)—A presidential statement announces that on Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam's recommendation, Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi has appointed Mr. Mohamed Takiya as justice minister.

Government Discusses Finance Bill, Economic Plans

LD1611110892 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Algiers, Nov 16 (APS)—The government started Sunday a series of meetings on the finance bill and the 1993 annual plan, in an unchanged situation of structural economic crisis and executive indebtedness.

Belaid Abdesselam and his team who are facing the lack of financial resources, the instability of the oil market and fresh money, will have great difficulties in implementing what they promised only a week ago, namely a "sensible increase" of public investments and a "tendency towards the relaunch of production", starting from next year, in order that development can, starting from 1993, have a "significant importance".

To be protected from bad surprises during this important year in the three year time it set up, the executive must work on the lowest hypotheses, namely a capricious barrel and a service of the debt that is terribly intact.

The test seems difficult since the government must struggle on many fronts at the same time: From the payment of the debt (75 per cent of incomes), to a relative social justice, the decision-makers are in fact placed in a delicate position.

If the imminent setting up of fundamental judicial mechanisms for the implementation of the market economy can open better prospects of relaunch in the short run, with the arrival of Algerian and foreign private capitals, the authorities will still have to reduce social tensions which are increasing with the decrease of the results of the companies in all sectors.

The government, which is more than ever convinced that salvation comes from the resort to internal means of production, is relying on the effects of the incentive measures decided in favor of strategic job generating sectors such as agriculture and public building.

Through the recent measures of limitation of imports to the only strategic products, the government wants to protect the most threatened industries and better orientation of the national saving towards useful imports to the economic integration.

But the true test for Abdesselam will be his way to manage the great macro-economic equilibriums during the near future.

In this context, the struggle against inflation and fiscal evasion will be very tough. Thus, the people with fortunes will be subject to a special taxation, a solidarity taxation will also be implied but does not concern the low salaries. In addition there will be some decreases concerning strategic sectors such as agriculture which will benefit from a decrease in value added tax.

The difficult mastering of the budgetary balance and monetary inflation must also attract the attention of decision makers in 1993, mainly that the special fund of support to prices and persons with low or no salaries together with the guaranteed prices for agricultural prices with an increase of expenses that may result and which may lead to monetary creation (printing of bank notes).

Economic rigor and social stability and safeguard of the production means, restoration of the state authority in all fields at the internal level and the reconquest of the credibility of the country abroad, here are equations the

government of Abdesselam, aware at the same time of the unbelievable challenge which is expecting it and the difficulty to convince all the social partners, will try to reduce with the minimum of damage.

Human Rights League Urges Ending 'Excesses'

LD1511192292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] In a statement published today, the Algerian Human Rights League has called on the authorities to combat violence within the framework of the Algerian Republic, and has demanded the cessation of some unjustified rights violations and excesses which the League cites in its statement. The League has held a meeting to evaluate the conditions of human rights in Algeria.

The statement again denounced the acts of violence and assassinations committed against security men who watchfully work for preserving security and order.

Egypt

Authorities Acting Against Fundamentalists

NC1911183192 Paris AFP in English 1720 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Report by David Daure]

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Nov 19 (AFP)—Authorities in this southern Egyptian province are waging a no-holds barred fight against Muslim fundamentalists, making massive arrests and destroying the family homes of suspects.

"Violence must be repressed by violence," the governor of Asyut province, Hasan al-Alfi, told AFP. But he conceded the fight will be long and difficult.

Meanwhile, the local people are paying the price in lost business, fear and uncertainty, and the divide between Coptic Christians and Muslims is growing. On Wednesday, police were deployed to separate Copts and Muslims arguing over land next to a church in Bani Murr, between Asyut and Sohaj.

A source close to the fundamentalists said 1,600 extremists are being secretly held in the Asyut region, 380 kilometers south of Cairo. These are in addition to the 315 in prison here.

In Hajayrat, home of the attackers of six German tourists wounded last week in Qina (240 kilometers south of Asyut), five houses have been razed by a bulldozer—presumably the family homes of the suspected attackers. The mother and grandmother of a suspect who was captured, 18-year-old Bastawi Abu-al-Majd, were jailed the same day. The bulldozer is still there, in full view on the village square next to a large armored vehicle belonging to Egyptian security forces.

Asked about such measures of collective punishment, al-Alfi, the governor, said: "Violence must be repressed by violence."

Because many of those who carry out attacks are young, the government plans to remove the status of minor from those between 15 and 18 years old in order to take full legal action against them, the governor said. And because the Nile region's sugar canes provide a perfect hideout for extremists, studies are underway to eventually replace this crop with sugar-beet, he said.

Signs of the unrest which has caused more than 60 deaths this year, including a British tourist, in Upper Egypt are not immediately apparent, however. The cities and villages are as bustling as usual, the army is off the streets and police are relatively discreet. There are few signs of the serious social, religious and political crisis brewing.

More than a thousand years of peaceful coexistence between Muslims and Christians, the latter representing up to 30 percent of the region's population, are in jeopardy. All Christians who spoke to AFP asked that their names not be used. Some asked not to be telephoned, and others refused to meet in public places. "The government is not defending us in order not to irritate the fundamentalists and the latter kill us for destabilizing the state," said one Christian, summing up the situation.

One teacher, a Coptic Christian, said relations between Muslims and Christians started worsening 10 years ago when President Anwar al-Sadat, who was killed by fundamentalists, chose to support Islamic groups to fight the left wing. The teacher said most Copts want to emigrate. While he criticized police for being too lax, others said security forces have made an extra effort in recent weeks to protect the Copts, with police in civilian clothes being assigned to protect prominent Copts.

Man Arrested for Qina Bus Attack

NC1911204292 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Nov 92 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] The security agencies at dawn yesterday [15 November] arrested the driver of the taxi in which the terrorists who attacked the tourist bus in Qina escaped. The driver was found in sugar cane farms near the village of Hajayrat, where the terrorists live.

The defendant confessed that he took the suspects on the night of the incident to Shaykh Ahmad Tomb in the Awlad Samak neighborhood and that he attended the meeting during which the plan of attack was discussed. Suspect Sa'id Amin Abu-al-Majd said he transported the terrorists after the attack to Hajayrat.

Yesterday, Public Prosecution Chief 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Karim began questioning the suspect under the supervision of Counselor Badr 'Abd-al-Fattah, state lawyer in Qina prosecution office. [passage omitted]

Brotherhood Figure Arrested

NC2011114492 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 16 Nov 92 p 1

[Report by Madani Salih]

[Text] The State Higher Security Prosecution Office today will launch an investigation into a secret organization that has been uncovered in Upper Egypt. The group is led by Hasan Judah, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Bani Suwayf, and his son-in-law 'Afifi 'Abd-al-Rahman, who managed to escape. The State Security Investigation Department arrested the Muslim Brotherhood leader the day before yesterday after receiving information that he possessed a clandestine printing press—used to print leaflets criticizing the regime—and radios to contact organization members in a number of governorates. Permission was obtained from the State Prosecution Office to search his home, where police found a photocopying machine, leaflets attacking the regime in Egypt, and radios.

Investigation Department officials are working to apprehend the suspect who escaped. The first suspect and the equipment seized in his possession were referred to the Higher Security Prosecution Office, where Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, first public attorney at the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, will interrogate the suspect.

AL-AHRAR has learned that Hasan Judah, the Muslim Brotherhood leader in Bani Suwayf, is the chairman of the Council of the Islamic Propagation Society [Jam'iyat al-Da'wah al-Islamiyah], which has numerous schools and charitable clinics in all subdistricts of Bani Suwayf Governorate. He has been arrested several times and once served as Bani Suwayf Governorate's deputy in the People's Assembly.

Extremist Hunt Uncovers 25-Member Organization

NC1911120292 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Nov 92 p 1

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Security forces in al-Fayyum uncovered a new 25-member organization, al-Tawhid [Monotheism], during their all-out pursuit of extremists. The organization is supported by a high school teacher who split up from the extremist al-Shawqiyin group. Interrogations revealed that the organization uses children after training them in means of communication and the exchange of messages among members. The liaison officer between the new organization and al-Jihad organization in Cairo is Sa'id Ibrahim Bakir, a 28-year old carpenter from al-Khankah. He received a motorbike from the leader of al-Jihad organization to travel between Cairo and al-Fayyum.

Elsewhere, Asyut police arrested five extremists including a dangerous leader, the nephew of Jamal Farghali Haridi, who leads the military wing and is the man responsible for the Dayrut massacre in June.

Bakir Arrested

NC1911301292 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Nov 92 p 7

[Mahir Najib reports from al-Fayyum]

[Excerpt] Security forces in al-Fayyum have arrested Sa'id Ibrahim Bakir, a 28-year-old carpenter, and the man in charge of liaison between the al-Jihad Organization leaders in Cairo and al-Fayyum. He was caught on a side road in the desert area of Kawm Awshim near al-Fayyum Governorate on a stolen motorcycle.

Papers and documents containing the group's plans to carry out several terrorist operations on tourist sites in al-Fayyum were found in his possession. Muhammad Rashwan, director of prosecution in Tamiyah, ordered his detention. [passage omitted]

Assembly Committee Denounces Attacks on Tourists

NC1711152492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] During a meeting today under the chairmanship of Dr. Fawziyah 'Abd-al-Sattar, the Legislative and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly denounced the repeated attempts to attack tourists. The committee members affirmed that the objective of the terrorists is to undermine the Egyptian economy and turn tourists away from Egypt. The members called for concerted efforts by popular and political forces to end this phenomena, which jeopardizes Egypt's reputation. The members also called for the police services to be reinforced and the Interior Ministry's budget to be doubled to enable it to deal with such crimes.

The members also noted the importance of combating terrorism exported to Egypt from abroad, noting that diplomatic action must be taken to stop it.

Interior Minister Said Targeted for Assassination

NC1611120092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has said that according to the Interior Ministry's security sources, the men who carried out the assassination of former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub [on 12 October 1990] had intended to assassinate Interior Minister Musa after keeping him under surveillance.

Testifying today before the Supreme State Security Court, which is handling the assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub and his companions, Musa said that he indeed had planned to take the same road Dr. al-Mahjub used on that day, but to his surprise, found it closed. Instead, he took a different road to his office at the Interior Ministry, where he was scheduled to announce the results of the referendum on dissolving the People's

Assembly on 12 October 1990. He later learned that the security authorities had closed the road following the assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub, he added.

The interior minister stressed that investigations had revealed that the defendants mistakenly took the car of Dr. al-Mahjub, who was on his way to the Meridien Hotel to meet a Syrian parliamentary delegation, to be the car of the interior minister, and therefore carried out the assassination. [passage omitted]

The interior minister said he does not fear threats from extremist groups to assassinate him, because he believes that the life of any human being will end only by God's will, not the will of individuals. He denied that the defendants had suffered any torture, and added: I do not allow such practices and am ready to conduct an immediate investigation to punish the perpetrators.

Asked by the defense why the Islamic shari'ah is not fully implemented in Egypt, Musa said that the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that the Islamic shari'ah is a main source of legislation, adding that its implementation is not within the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry.

Musa stressed that the basic dispute between these groups and the security agencies is over the groups' repeated violations of the law. Musa asked: If their goal is to propagate God's word, why do they kill and rob people and why do they attack innocent tourists? He pointed out that the practices of these groups go against the spirit and teachings of the noble Islamic religion.

With the court's permission, the first defendant in the case, Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, was allowed to ask the interior minister a question. He said: Why have 100 people from these groups been killed during your term as interior minister? The minister said: These people commit crimes, and when security men head out to arrest them, they start throwing Molotov cocktails and firing at the security men, who are compelled to return the fire. He added: It is inconceivable for anyone to believe that in such cases the security men would receive them with open arms.

Concluding his testimony, the interior minister said the Criminal Investigation Department and the State Security Investigation Department have exerted great efforts and succeeded in arresting Dr. al-Mahjub's killers.

At the end of the session, the court was adjourned until tomorrow to listen to testimony from the prosecution's witnesses. The court also decided to hear on Wednesday the testimony of Major General Mustafa Kamil, former chief of the State Security Investigation Department and current governor of al-Daqahliyah.

Musa Says Security Can 'Eliminate' Terrorists

NC1911171992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd- al-Halim Musa has stated that the security forces will continue their efforts to apprehend the perpetrators of the recent acts of violence and terrorism and to annihilate [al-qada' 'ala] their leaders and those behind them, inside or outside Egypt. He said the security authorities are consolidating their grip to establish security and eliminate any attempt to harm the country's security and economy.

This came in a speech he delivered today at the graduation of 140 petty officers being promoted to the rank of officer. The ceremony was attended by Major General Muhammad Hilmi Salih, assistant interior minister for security; Maj. Gen. Fakhr-al-Din Khalid, assistant interior minister and director of the Police Academy; and several high-ranking police officers.

Interior Minister Musa said: Some terrorist acts were committed recently in Egypt by some individuals who do not believe in any religion and who have no conscience, who do not fear God, and who act against the homeland and the people. These people are trying to destabilize the country and undermine its security on the pretext that the state and its establishments are using some cultural and economic means that they reject as a way to reform the economy.

The interior minister said these pretexts are remote from religion and creed. He said it is the duty of the police to confront these elements and establish law and order. He indicated that these elements have resorted to some irresponsible actions and tried to attack foreign tourists who are Egypt's guests.

The interior minister said the security forces have the upper hand and can eliminate these terrorist elements and safeguard security.

Tourism Minister Says Conditions Satisfactory

NC1711133592 Cairo MENA in English 0854 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Fu'ad Sultan left here this morning for London to attend the three-day International Tourist Fair, due to start there today.

The minister said he will attend the International Symposium on Tourism, due to be held there at an invitation by the International Tourism Authority.

The minister denied that tourists in Egypt were panicking, adding that conditions for tourists were satisfactory.

Israeli Security Offers Reportedly Rejected

NC1511193892 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 11 Nov 92 p 1, 6

[Text] Egypt has recently rejected three Israeli offers to cooperate in various security and economic fields. It refused to sign a security cooperation agreement to tighten the noose around the gangs smuggling drugs and

weapons across the Egyptian-Israeli borders. Egypt also refused to allow the establishment of three Israeli banks in Cairo.

Security reports have said that a number of Israeli tourists have been arrested while attempting to pass counterfeit "dollars" in Egyptian markets. They admitted that they got these dollars from Israeli banks. This raises the suspicion that there is an attempt to flood Egyptian markets with counterfeit dollars.

Egypt also refused three offers from Israeli businessmen residing in the United States to buy the branches of the major trading companies that used to be owned by Jewish families in Egypt before the revolution. These companies are Sidnawi, Shamla, and al-Tarabishi.

Khamene'i Criticized for Claiming Custodianship

NC1811220892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "Tehran Continues its Lies, This Time in Khamene'i's Words"]

[Text] In the ongoing drama of lies and calumny broadcast by Tehran's deceptive media, now exposed to all Arab and Islamic nations, 'Ali Khamene'i, one of Tehran's tyrannical rulers, has claimed that what he alleges is an Islamic revolution in Iran is the voice of all nations, including the Islamic groups in Egypt. 'Ali Khamene'i's misleading statement deceives no one who knows Islam well. This Iranian despot's allegations are a form of opportunism hiding behind religion. Indeed it is a lowly exploitation of religion, designed to turn the Islamic nations against each other and divide their ranks. The Arab and Islamic nations need no custodianship or guidance from those who rule Iran with blood and fire. Their dealings with the fraternal Iranian people consist of physical elimination on the scaffold and before firing squads. The Iranian citizens have become used to such frightful and bloody scenes since being afflicted with the tyrants' rule in 1979. This rule has imposed on Iran a terrorism unequalled even by that of the Middle Ages. Indeed all nations stand witness to this lowly exploitation of religion in many countries that have been nearly ruined by civil strife, notably fraternal Algeria. As a result of Iranian subterfuge, conspiracy, and hegemony schemes, Algeria would have burned and perished had it not been for the mercy of God and the faith of its sons, who confronted the Iranian rulers's plots to burn Algeria and help the agent Salvation Front seize power in return for a $5-billion reward from Tehran's rulers, personally promised by 'Ali Khamene'i.

These dangerous acts, which nations and countries exploit daily, are provoked and planned by the regime ruling Tehran. 'Ali Khamene'i's allegation is false; it does not have one thread of truth behind it. No one is the custodian of the Muslims. Faithful Muslims know their religion and perform their duty to God and his prophet without waiting for custodianship from Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khamene'i, or other Tehran rulers. Hence 'Ali Khamene'i's alleged revolution is a merely a cloak behind which the Tehran rulers hide to export suffering, oppression, and terrorism and impose their hegemony over Arab and Islamic nations via the spy dens that are Tehran's embassies.

This is linked with the terrorist and hostile tendencies inherent in Tehran's ethics, as illustrated by its aggression against Arab and Islamic states. This is carried out by conspiracy or military occupation like the occupation of the United Arab Emirates islands, which Iran is determined to hold by force.

In conclusion, we say that those who speak of Islam while carrying out terrorist acts are the first to harm the true religion and distort its image before the world. Egypt, the country of Islam and the venerable al-Azhar, is at the forefront of the Islamic countries seeking to clear the accusations unjustly laid at Islam's door as a result of terrorist practices directed against people everywhere and perpetrated by a tyrant from Iran or Iraq.

Egypt is alert to such terrorist schemes. The Egyptian people are able to cut off the hands that carry terrorism to it regardless of whether they are sent by Iran's or Iraq's despots.

Iran Barred From Cairo Film Festival

LD2011103692 Tehran IRNA in English 0907 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Athens, Nov 20, IRNA—Iran will not be allowed to participate in the Cairo International Film Festival which begins on 30 November, Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM Thursday reported. Iran had dispatched ten films to be screened during the two-week festival, said the paper.

U.S. Customs Decision on EC Goods Viewed

NC1811144092 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 14 Nov 92 p 9

[Report by Muhammad 'Umar]

[Text] A responsible source has said the U.S. decision to raise customs on European agricultural products will negatively and positively affect Egypt. A large part of the aid to Egypt, especially from the United States, is agricultural products. These will decrease as the amount of cash assistance remains fixed. It would seem as if we will pay part of the cost of the trade war, the source said.

On the positive side, the source explained, European investments, especially in agriculture, will be directed toward Egypt as the largest market in the region and a key to many other markets. European assistance to Egypt will increase.

Within this framework, an agreement between Egypt and the UN's Mediterranean program has been reached to build experimental farms along the northern coast. Some

700,000 dollars has been allocated to the project. Egyptian fruit and vegetable products are exempt from customs. Cotton is not.

Mubarak Receives Message From UAE Official

NC1611113592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1034 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Shaykh Muhammad Zayid, deputy chief of staff of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Armed Forces, at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning.

Shaykh Muhammad Zayid said afterward that he conveyed to President Mubarak a message from his brother UAE President Shaykh Zayid bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealing with the latest regional developments.

Nigerian Envoy Conveys Message

NC1611204692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received a message from the president of Niger about bilateral relations. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received the message today when he received Niger envoy (Haj Musa Abu-Bakr). The envoy also conveyed to Foreign Minister Musa an oral message from the Nigerian foreign minister on the agenda of the Dakar summit meeting of the group of 15 states, which will be held on 21-23 November.

Economy Minister Returns From Meeting in Sudan

NC1811134992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Yusri Mustafa, economy and foreign trade minister, returned to Cairo from Khartoum today after heading the Egyptian delegation to the meeting of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee.

Mustafa said he discussed with Sudanese officials increasing the quantities of goods Egypt imports from Sudan, including sesame, broad beans, and meat. He added that he also reviewed the Egyptian-Sudanese trade protocol, which will be signed in Cairo in February during the next meeting of the joint committee.

People's Assembly Speaker Leads Group to Russia

NC1511131392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur left Cairo this afternoon leading a delegation on a one-week visit to Russia. Before he left he said that he is carrying a message from President Mubarak to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He noted that the Egyptian parliamentary delegation's visit to Russia comes at an important time in the history of relations between the two countries, particularly since Russia is passing through economic conditions similar to Egypt's. He stressed that relations between Egypt and Russia are strong, noting that a trade, scientific, and educational agreement was signed between the two countries in May. He noted that Russia has always adopted positions in favor of the Arab cause in the peace negotiations.

Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Departs 15 Nov

NC1611112192 Cairo MENA in English 0900 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 15 (MENA)—The Ukrainian deputy foreign minister left here early this morning together with his accompanying delegation following a four-day visit to Egypt.

He told reporters at the airport that he delivered a message from Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko to his Egyptian opposite number 'Amr Musa.

The Ukrainian official said that his talks with the Egyptian senior officials covered preparations for Ukrain'an President Leonid Kravchuk's prospective visit to Egypt, due in December, arrangements to establish a Ukrainian embassy here and aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the foreign, economic and trade domains.

Further Local Council Election Results Announced

NC1211112292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] This morning the governorates began to announce the results of popular local council's run-off and delayed-second round elections.

In Port Said Governorate, the National Democratic Party [NDP] won two tickets in Port Fu'ad and al-Manakh Constituencies and the Wafd Party won two tickets in al-Sharq and al-Ghurb Constituencies.

In al-Suways Governorate, the NDP won the governorate's ticket in al-Faysal Constituency and the 'Attaqah District ticket in al-Faysal Constituency.

In al-Sharqiyah Governorate, the NDP won the governorate's ticket in the first district of al-Zaqaziq while the Wafd Party won the Markaz Bilbays ticket in Bilbays City.

The NDP won the Alexandria Governorate ticket in al-Jumruk Constituency. In al-Jizah Governorate, the NDP won the ticket in al-Manawat village and the Cairo Governorate ticket in al-Sahil, 'Ayn Shams, Hada'iq al-Qubbah, and Hay al-Zaytun Constituencies. The NDP also won the ticket on governorate and district levels in Misr al-Qadimah Constituency.

In Kafr al-Shaykh, the Labor Party won the governorate's ticket in Disuq Constituency and the NDP won in Markaz Baltim. The Wafd Party won the governorate ticket in Markaz (Mitawbas). The NDP won Markaz Baltim's tickets in Baltim City and (Bur al-Burulghus) Village. The Labor Party won Markaz Disuq ticket in Disuq City and the Wafd Party won the Markaz (Mitawbas) ticket in (Mitawbas) City.

The NDP won the ticket of Markaz Sidi Salim in Munshu'at 'Abbas and al-Hamul District ticket in al-Za'farna village. The NDP won 29 tickets in Bani Suwayf Governorate.

The governorates will announce the results of the run-off elections when the vote count is complete.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses General People's Congress

LD1811231392 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1807 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Address by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at conclusion of General People's Congress meeting in Surt—live]

[Excerpts] Before I speak, I have a point of order to make. I have a sore throat, and consequently I cannot speak in a loud voice. This is the first point. May God bless you.

My voice over the radio seems to be coming out well. This means that the people outside can hear me, the Arab nation can hear me, and the world can hear me. As for you, you are free to do what you want. [applause]

This means I will not stop when you cheer and will continue to speak, and will not talk for long. If you interrupt me, I will not stop talking until you finish your interruption. Once I start talking I will continue. [applause] [passage omitted]

I have a brief introduction and some remarks which, though procedural, are significant. After that I have some important points to talk about which constitute the core of the matter. [passage omitted]

I am sorry, however, that women have lagged behind in this battle against all my expectations. This is because since the start of the revolution, we have been promoting women and destroying all impediments in their way. Libya was the first country to establish a military academy for girls.

Now the European countries, which you consider advanced, are wondering whether women should join the army or not and whether women should vote in the elections or not. [passage omitted]

We have broadly opened up education to women and have gone so far as appointing women as assistant secretaries in numerous popular positions, in the secretariats and congresses and committees, with the hope that all this will encourage women to advance themselves by their own efforts, since nobody can look down on them.

I wish to record my regret here that women have not made the strides required of them. Unfortunately, this time women seemed to have stayed away. There should be women's basic congresses. This has led to the suggestion of the appointment of an assistant secretary for women's affairs, whose task is to organize women's basic congresses.

No one should be displeased about coming under scrutiny. Sometimes you are at home and the police or your neighbors come and tackle you, saying: You used a megaphone and disturbed us, or you did so and so and disturbed us. How about in public places? This hall is a public place. From the first day you enter it, you are liable to be scrutinized. Everyone who has now entered the communes, the congresses, the secretariats of the congresses, people's congresses and other higher bodies should declare his possessions; even his wife's gold must be registered. And as I told you, if you have something which you failed to declare, when they take it from you, you cannot defend yourself. If you have two houses and you previously said I have one, in the morning they will take the other. You will not be able to say this is mine, because you declared only one house. [passage omitted]

We would like to thank the secretaries who have left. They will be leaving these positions for others. They should not be happy and say: Thank God we can relax [words indistinct]. No, you all have responsibilities. [passage omitted]

I am against everything that was demonstrated by some people against the secretariat of the General People's Congress when it was here; some acts occurred. I told you at the beginning that I am grateful to them. I have some remarks to make. After that we will go into the essence of the real subject; we will try to make it brief.

There is a comment I have to make. When you say majority—according to my understanding of an absolute, crushing or simple majority—I think that your interpretation of it is wrong, particularly in selection. An absolute majority means 50 percent plus, 50.5 percent or 50.1 percent; that is an absolute majority. You take an absolute majority for a crushing majority, which is 90 percent, 99.9 percent, or 100 percent. [passage omitted]

It is wrong to push someone with the assumption that it would benefit him. This is wrong. It is a fire bomb, and it could lead to the machine gun or execution by firing squad by an unknown person in the street. These are combat positions, fire bombs. Why do you involve your relatives and people you love in them? [passage omitted]

I am still just commenting. If we were to ask you what is required of us, me and my colleagues, you would not be able to agree on one reply. What Major 'Abd-al-Salam

stated in his speech at the opening of your congress is correct. He said: Our presence is a moral one. Our presence should not be an impediment to the people's authority and should not be relied upon. Our presence is a moral one. We lead the revolution. This is a revolutionary aspect and not an administrative or legal one.

You always rely to me and say: Let us have a referendum and let us say you have been chosen a president, and let us call it republic or Jamahiriyah.

Brothers, it is unbecoming for the leader of the revolution to be a ruler. All leaders of revolutions who became rulers were done for, and their revolution and program ended, too. [applause]

The ruler you create implements your decisions. You squabble with him and he squabbles with you, and you put him on trial and he puts you on trial.

But it is unbecoming for the leadership of the revolution to involve itself in problems. I cannot intervene in a problem pertaining to some individual. It is unbecoming of me, and regrettably, I sometimes involved myself. But this is wrong. Do not ask me to get involved in executive and administrative matters. [passage omitted]

We are a revolution of principles and orientations. I do not clash with individuals or call individuals to account. We clash with sections, with reaction, with exploitation, with apostasy. In these matters, we fight even to the extent of carrying arms in the street. [passage omitted]

There are people who say that we have not settled down and that there are continuous changes. No, no; there are no changes. The constants remain the same. There is no democracy without people's congresses, and congresses and committees are everywhere; we are partners and not hired hands; the house is the property of the person who lives in it. These are constants. But for you to divide your country into territories or municipalities or communes, this will be an administrative action; that is the one thing which changes. [passage omitted]

If you do not approve of a secretary general—here I am addressing the people in the street—those people when they don't like him and say all sorts of things about him, they must not blame the secretary general who was selected; they must not blame him. They must blame the people's congress in his commune. Why? It is because the people's congress selected its secretary and the secretary of the people's committee. They were present at the General People's Congress, and it was they who chose this secretary.

God forbid, if you have chosen someone who is no good, don't blame him. If he is no good it is no use blaming him. It is you who selected him. Who chose him? The communes. Why did you select a secretary that represents this commune and the commune's people's congress and the commune's people's committee? It was they who met and who came from all parts of the country and selected him. Then don't blame him. Blame yourselves. Why did you select a secretary of the congress and a secretary of the committee, and why is it that the commune is unable to select a good person?

Blame here is inappropriate. For instance, if the General People's Congress fails tomorrow, it cannot be blamed. The blame is on the communes; on the ordinary citizen who chose this secretary and who met in this tent and chose this secretary general.

In all events, confidence lies with the people. The evidence here in Libya is that confidence is with the people. This is not empty talk. The evidence is that everything belongs to the people. The building of communes and the handing over power to the communes shows that in this country there is no fear of the people and that the people have in actual fact become the masters and that they select the General People's Congress, the general secretariat and the senior positions and those who shoulder enormous tasks.

Authority is of the people. Weapons also are in the hands of the people. Today I am going to talk about wealth and how it should be in the hands of the people. [applause]

As long as the weapons are in the hands of the people and the people as a whole are trained in the use of weapons and are turned into an army, it means in this country the people have no fear from themselves.

Since weapons are for the people, why do all the people not train in the use of weapons and become an army. This means that no one fears the people. In other countries they fear the people. They ban the assembly of more than five people. In Arab countries there are now laws which ban the assembly of more than five people and ban movement after 1800.

You meet in the open air in every commune. When authority and weapons are in the hands of the people, in addition to the wealth we talk about which is also in the hands of the people, this means that everything is indeed in the hands of the people.

We come to the heart of the matter. First, we understand that now authority in Libya, from the day of the establishment of the communes, or to be precise, from the day authority is handed over, will be in the hands of the communes. The commune can consider itself an independent state at home. [applause] It can take whatever measures it likes that are in its interest. It is a small people's government, a tiny Jamahiriyah. It is a people's congress consisting of all the people of the commune. To the professor who today objected and said we got accustomed to the people's congress, let us forget about the commune: No, the commune is like the municipality, or the governorate. It does not affect the people's congress. People's congresses and people's committees remain, but within the commune. I use the word "commune" because the world does not understand the Arabic word "mahalliah". Perhaps when we talk about a "mahalliah"

in Libya, it will think that what is meant is a municipality or a governorate. But when I said commune, this drew the attention of a writer in AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT who wrote something for the first time by an Arab. He said a serious thing is now taking place in Libya. The theories of philosophers are now being translated into reality in Libya, despite the fact that this newspaper does not support us, is not ours and perhaps attacks us. [passage omitted]

The "mahallah" or the commune is an independent statelet in the Jamahiriyah which can dispose freely of everything and has a budget and is run by its people, and no one can impose anything on the commune from outside it, unless all people's congresses have decided a certain thing. [passage omitted]

I found a state which is similar to us, but of course still behind us: Switzerland. We are ahead of it; we have reached the end of the road. But Switzerland has the commune system and has another layer after the commune, like we used to have branches and municipalities. It has cantons and then the Swiss federation. I found out that this federation has no powers at all. If one applies for nationality, they tell him the Swiss federation cannot grant you nationality unless the commune where you reside agrees to accept you. If the commune says no, we cannot grant you nationality. [passage omitted]

It does not make sense to say that a ruler, as simple people would call him, can appoint or even know such people [as have been elected]. You have seen how rulers reject people, sit in closed groups, and in the end even prevent the people from carrying arms. Having failed to attain wealth and power, the people were up in arms, in the name of paganism or religion or whatever. These people who are fighting around us even in the Arab world are, in the final analysis, abandoned in suburbs, remote areas and streets; they are left to their own ambitions, aspirations, and dreams that cannot be expressed. That results from a ruler trying to appoint certain people. Only the people can select. [passage omitted]

People are now up in arms because they have been denied wealth and power and because their voices and views have not been heard; they are lost. That is the reason for the fighting. Some resort to the supernatural while others resort to materialism all for that reason; not for religion or as you have heard for paganism. No, that is only an escape. What is happening is a revolt against reality, exclusion, oblivion, frustration, neglect. [passage omitted]

The existing police force, Ibrahim, will become like the federal police. It will not have anything to do with the communes. It will be used for intervention when the need arises in any commune which fails in terms of its own security. [passage omitted]

We hope that the value of the general people's committees and the General People's Committee will diminish— the committees to which you attach a high value and which you elect and squabble over the results, and insult each other because of the election of these committees. We hope that the value of these committees will become diminish and ultimately become nothing. We want to see authority withdrawn from these committees and concentrated into the hands of the communes. [applause] Listen to me: There should be no fear at all. There is nobody more concerned about your interest than you yourselves. [applause] There must be confidence in the people themselves. That is it; the people ...[pauses] We give a million [dinars] to a commune—the communes are free; is it logical that a commune may squander its million? Not at all. [cheers and applause]. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the problem, in this era is a problem of administration, is there is no longer politics. The political parties [abroad] are being formed by poor reactionary people; the political parties are of no value any more. [passage omitted]

God willing, I will have meetings with each general people's committee individually because I am wondering about the philosophy of this integration and am asking why education was integrated with scientific research and with training and youth and jamahiri sport? What is the philosophy of this integration? You will be hearing the explanation of this philosophy when I meet with these committees. You should take over from those [not further specified]; those elected should replace those who were not elected. [applause]

There is an important point which I would like to read to you from the Green Book. The Law of Society is the other problem which has not been solved in the modern era despite the fact that it was solved at various times in history. To have a committee or an assembly laying down the code of society is invalid and undemocratic. To have the Law of Society amended or abolished by an individual, committee, or an assembly is invalid and undemocratic. Therefore, what is the law of a society, and who lays down such law and how important is it as far as democracy is concerned? The natural law of any society is the tradition or religion. [passage omitted] Some criticize us by saying: This country has no constitution. But I would like to tell you to stop saying such things. Now that the communes have been built, you are free to meet within the 1,500 communes in Libya. The people's congresses meet and decide. If you want a constitution have one; if you want a constitution then there is no danger in that. It is merely a law that corresponds to a situation. Our view on it is clear. We do not fear a constitution. [passage omitted]

Naturally, by saying these words I arrive at a very important point. I want to come out—of this meeting with you and from the words I am saying—with a material program of action to be implemented on Libyan territory, not just mere words. I have naturally thanked you and expressed my pleasure, and I have spoken of the negative aspects and expressed regret over the fact that women did not make progress today, etc. I also spoke

about their imposition, efficiency, and the human achievements which we have realized. I am very glad when I see the list which is on the computer and note that in one single people's committee there are so many assistants who have bachelor degrees. [applause] This is something one ought to be proud of in this world. [passage omitted]

The conflicts in the world, and the disputes that led to tragedies which we are in Somalia, Yugoslavia, the former Soviet Union, and in Los Angeles, and in London and Northern Ireland and elsewhere in the world; and the Kurds—these are real tragedies, similar to those suffered by the Libyan people under Italian occupation.

At that time the Italians were backward, and now the forces or the peoples who are fighting possess hellish and terrible means. The Italians had primitive aircraft and we regarded them as dangerous; they used to pursue us in these aircraft as far as Chad. They used to pursue us in our moves as far as Tunisia. [passage omitted]

But now look at what terrible things there are. There is a true tragedy similar to that of the Libyan people being suffered by these peoples. Look at the dying or dead children; the dispersed families, the bereaved who are dying a slow death as a result of hunger and thirst. What are the reasons for this? This is not something that just came down from the sky; it is not an earthquake; it is not a storm. No, it is something political, economic, and social. These people have not been able to decide their destiny.

The Kurds have not been able to unite themselves, decide their destiny, and get independence like any other nation. They are under the domination of others. They constantly rebelled until they encountered annihilation.

The Yugoslav peoples colonize each other; no one is satisfied with what they have in the form of sovereignty, authority, and wealth in Yugoslavia; they took up arms; there was no way to reach understanding after Tito.

In Somalia there are three Arabs, fighting each other; each one wants to rule Somalia. Three millions died for the sake of the four [as heard]. Look at the tragedy of Somalia.

There are rebellions in some Arab countries which you hear about; rebellions because of the lack of equality and not because of God and Heaven, etc. If peoples do not achieve their rights—what they deem to be their rights—sovereignty, authority, and wealth of their countries—then are prepared to form parties, groups, and resort to underground activities and take up arms. Inequality and the fact that the masses do not achieve these things push the masses into a conflict that leads to a tragedy. Therefore, obtaining one's share of one's country's wealth that satisfies one, is something very important to psychological, political, and social stability. [passage omitted]

This injustice ends when the wealth of the society is distributed among the members of the society and when the latter feel satisfied as this wealth—their wealth—has been been returned to them. The political decision leads to the same situation—if the people feel that they have the political decision in their hand. [passage omitted]

In the last 20 years we spent $23 billion on defense, on armaments. We went too far in this but it was the thing that made our enemies stay at arms length for 20 years. [applause] Had it not been for their fear of us they would not have spent so many years preparing for the 1986 raid, they would perhaps have come with contempt for us. They thought that they were attacking a defended and strong citadel. And indeed as soon as their airplanes began to arrive they started falling down, and they said that the desert climate had affected the electronics of their airplanes. Is there a desert in Tripoli? [applause]

We feel that, we wish, that there had been no difficult international circumstances at the time; otherwise, we would have spent these billions on health, education, farming, and other things, instead of...[pauses] or we would have donated them to the Palestinian people, instead of these armaments. But arming ourselves was imposed on us. [passage omitted]

We have been careful with wealth, so that Libya can remain credible in the world in the face of the embargo and wars. It is a fact that during the Reagan era, in particular, the world was a dangerous place. There was no United Nations or anything. As for Bush, one positive thing we have to admit that he did was using the United Nations. Although he used it as a surrogate for the United States, there was no unilateral behavior; he let the UN Security Council sanction peoples and impose blockades on them at will. I mean to say that there is a seed of good in evil.

But during the Reagan era, the world was terrorized: Grenada, Libya, and so forth. He found it normal to launch his fleets, aircraft and missiles. [passage omitted]

Now we are in a stage in which awareness has reached a great degree. This is a fact, and I am very happy with this awareness and with the fact that these are ordinary citizens. When I deviate from something I am talking about I have to think because when you applaud and interrupt me I may deviate from the subject. You have become so aware. The secretary or the official who fears—the people who know the facts, and have revolutionary newspapers, and have popular control, and people's court—no one can any longer manipulate the public interest. This is a fact. [passage omitted]

Now that you have reached this position, I would like to say something important. It is known for how much we sell a barrel of oil and how many barrels we sell a day. This revenue comes to the bank, but bear in mind that when you hear that we have sold a million barrels a day and each barrel we sold for $20, this does not mean that $20 million have arrived at the central bank on the same day. Is not that true, doctor? [al-Qadhdhafi turns to member of audience to verify this] Those who have

bought the oil have to pay Libya $20 million a day. This may be paid over a period of one, or two, or three, or six months. [passage omitted]

When we buy goods, we tell the sellers that Libya has money with the such and such a state that has bought oil from me. When we say that the oil revenue in a year is $10 billion, this does not mean that in a period of 12 months we have the $10 billion in the bank. It is a fact that the money is owed to Libya, but to obtain it comes in the form of various barterings. You buy something for $1 billion and the $1 billion are with the person who bought oil from you, and you tell the one who bought the oil from you to settle your accounts with the person from whom you bought goods. [passage omitted When you go and ask the bank for 1 million, it is incorrect to say that the bank has no such amount. It means that the money is outside; it does not mean that the bank has no money. It means that the money is in the hands of those to whom we have sold the oil. The bank, therefore, cannot give you the 1 million you have asked for. [passage omitted]

I am clarifying this for you so that when I tell you something else, you do not grumble. As the Green Book says, society's wealth is equally divided among its members. After that, everyone is free to use it as one pleases. I ask you to be quiet, for the subject is important and serious. [passage omitted]

I will tell you now about the plan I have. I want the oil revenues to be divided into two parts. Please pay attention. One part, in our assessment, I and a number of experts who are studying it, half the budget, assuming our income was $10 billion a year from oil; in other words, $10 thousand million a year. We now that $5 billion, half of it, could be spent on health, education, industry, agriculture, and other purposes, and the other $5 billion.—[pause] Let it be $6 or $7 billion, for as much as you reduce the share of the public projects, it will be better, though these advocates of industry and public projects will say the opposite and that the share of public projects should be bigger. [passage omitted]

Let us suppose it were $5 billion a year. My opinion, brothers, is a very simple calculation. There will be no salaries, no employees, and no public services that are provided indirectly to you. No, after we spend on the factories and other necessities, what remains will be divided among Libyan families, in cash. This might be unusual, but it will be a fact. [applause]

To every Libyan family— listen to this, it is an important point, and it is the essence of the matter—wealth. Every Libyan family, be it rich or poor. [sentence as heard] The oil is supposed to belong to all Libyans. Consequently, we cannot say to someone: You are the son of so and so and your share is less. That is not possible. As I said, Libya belongs to everyone, to all Libyans. [passage omitted]

The wealth of the country belongs to all its owners. I would like oil revenues to be divided without getting anything in return, after deducting the cost of running the oil and public projects. If we bring 500,000, half a million, Libyan families and divide $5 billion among them, every family would get $10,000 per year free. That is your share of the oil revenue. [applause] [passage omitted]

If there are 600,000 to 700,000 families, around $7,000 per annum would be unquestionably yours, providing you do not ask to receive it all in one go. You can withdraw from it according to what is available at the bank, but even if there is delay, it will be effectively put into your account and no one can touch it. From the beginning of the year, each family will have an account of $7,000 to $10,000 in hard currency without offering anything in return. [passage omitted]

Call it primitivism if you like, but I want to embark on direct distribution of wealth, since we do not have a government or a quarter to whom we could give the money and ask for it to be spent on us. No, give us the money and we will deal with it ourselves.

You will receive from $7,000 to $10,000 if oil prices continue as they are. If they go up from $20 to $30, $35, or $40, the amount you receive will increase accordingly. But take heed, if prices go down, you will receive less.

Indeed, each Libyan family will receive that amount, even if it does nothing, for that is its share of oil revenues. After reaching agreement as to what sum will be spent on families, you will allocate public expenditure money, say for education, health, industry, agriculture, defense, security, and so forth, $2 or $4 billion or whatever. I personally hope that you will keep that expenditure to a minimum, so as to increase your money; instead of $7,000 per annum, you could have $8,000 and so forth. That would be possible if we took away from public expenditure. [passage omitted]

There is injustice—one Libyan is rich and the other is poor, and we say that the oil belongs to all of us; therefore, the latter says to you: Why is he rich and I am poor? [applause] Once an article was published during Ramadan some years ago—I had my fears about that—which said after a preamble: God protect the merchants from the younger revolutionaries, etc. This is a dangerous sign that draws a red line; it means that at a given hour younger revolutionaries will stage a revolution against the merchants. Why? It is clear that there are people in the street who eat each other. We can allow this—we cannot eat each other. No. If the oil belongs to us all then we all must become rich from the oil. It is inevitable that we should bring to book he who becomes rich from the oil. If we are convinced that the person has become rich from his share, then so be it. We do not combat richness. We do not want the Libyan people to be poor; we want them to be rich. [applause] The ultimate aim is to see the masses rich and not toilers. The Jamahiriyah, as we said, should be an ivory tower. [passage omitted]

Let us talk about the states that used to be socialist. Whenever we used to visit them, we used to ask them:

How are you? They used to reply—no, they used to come to me and say: Comrade al- Qadhdhafi, may I convey to you the greetings of the toilers of Bulgaria, or the toilers of Czechoslovakia, etc? I used to say: After 70 years you are still toilers; why did you stage a socialist revolution? [laughter] [passage omitted] The aim is to work in order to improve my standards and compensate for the lost paradise. This is the aim of life on earth. If we continue to be poor and toilers, we will be compelled to reconsider our situation, particularly when there is wealth in the country. Who has the wealth? Do not compel us to take up arms against each other and set each other's cars and houses and shops on fire. This will come if injustice continues. Therefore, oil should be distributed equally in the form of cash after a deduction of the share that goes for public projects as from 1993. [applause]

A serious policy should be laid down by the communes for the General People's Committee concerning our economy and our country. I mean this: You do not give me $10,000 in hard currency for me to go and buy candy. No, you must put restrictions on me; otherwise, there will be a disaster. [applause] [passage omitted]

Is it reasonable to eat candy or buy it in this country that has dates? God made dates, which are not to be found in the world at all. You ought to throw away any candy made anywhere in the world.

By the way, what is the name of that American thing that is talked about and that is advertised even in Russia, the thing that subverted the Soviet Union? Hamburger, is it? [voices in the audience respond hamburger; Al-Qadhdhafi says he does not know whether he has spoken already about this subject]

For your information, the hamburger, the poor man's dish in America, what is it made of? It is made—God protect you—of cockroaches, frogs, rats, and beetles: they mince them and mix them together with other things for the poor to eat.

I for one cannot, by God—[pauses] God forbid that I should be hungry to the point of eating that hamburger they are talking about. This is not possible. It is like eating beetles or cockroaches, because these are what it is made of. They have laughed at the world with it. [passage omitted]

Is it reasonable for you to buy things like this, or similar things, candies made in this manner and you leave out palm trees?

I mean that if we divide the oil wealth in this manner, it will be a disaster if a serious and wise policy for Libya is not laid down. The point is: What would you do with this money? Yes, you have it, but you are not free to do what you want with it to the point of damaging the economy of the country. [passage omitted]

What I want to stress is that as from the beginning of 1993—in one month—you should begin to lay down this policy when you receive the money; you should be assured that this courageous step will not harm the Libyans. The injustice as I told you— [pauses] Regrettably I cannot go to the market, as shopkeepers may be embarrassed and refuse to charge me; therefore, I no longer can enter any shop. But people do tell me things. They tell me that prices are too high and exorbitant [cheers and applause] and they tell me that a pair of boy's pants costs so much, and a boy's shoes cost such and such, etc. Something illogical?

Someone told me once that a boy's bicycle cost 150 dinars. He said to me: Let us assume that my salary is 150 dinars. How can I buy a bicycle for one of my sons? This is illogical. [applause] [passage omitted]

I still insist on people's markets, on the existence of nonexploitive commerce, and ration books. Some people will say that is evil. That is not evil, by God. The real evil is chaos and exploitation, which could lead us to eating each other's flesh. [passage omitted]

I should not remain a merchant forever or an official forever. I may sign a five-year contract with you to serve as an official, and after that I may like to farm the land. Then I will be replaced. Then there will not be a monopoly of positions; no one will say I have taken my share of the oil and that is that. The commune can be administered by its own committee, even without officials. Each commune will have a people's committee consisting of three sectors—how many? Twelve sectors. Citizens may daily call on these 12 sectors directly. [passage omitted]

However, I would like to point out a very important point: Priority should be given to those who go to the Sudan, Egypt, and Chad, and who will have farms on the Nile, so that we can expand. One may say that this is greater Libya. An Arab who wanted to cast doubt among Arabs about this said: It appears that you want a greater Libya. Call it what you like. These are our brothers and are welcome to come. We accept one million Egyptians, and in return one million Libyans will go to Egypt. We may accept one million Sudanese, and one million Libyans will go the Sudan. The oil may end, but water will not. [passage omitted]

We want 100,000 Libyan families to go to the Sudan and 100,000 families to go to Chad and 100,000 to go to Egypt and each family consisting of five or 10 members—that makes 300,000 times 10—that is 3 million. Your money will annually come to you—$10,000 in hard currency. It will come to you in the Sudan or Chad or Egypt in the Sudanese or Chadian or Egyptian bank. I believe that even these states will benefit when 300,000 families will receive $10,000 each. How much is that? $1 billion. [as heard] That is good if the Sudan bank annually receives $1 billion in hard currency from the Libyans; the bank will welcome it. The same thing can be said about the poor bank of Chad and also Egypt. We will transfer to you from the Libyan bank your share: annually $10,000 of hard currency, not in Libyan dinars but in hard currency. This will come to you in the Sudan.

or Egypt or Chad on condition that you run a farm there and settle there and benefit. Libya cannot support more than 1.5 million people maximum. Let us tell you that. [passage omitted]

Those who will go will be given privileges; we may reduce their taxes; we may reduce the customs duties they have to pay; we may exempt them. There should be a mobilization of all communes. Each commune should, as from the beginning of 1993, register the number of families who are prepared to receive their monies and privileges and leave for paradise—where the waters are. This is the Arab homeland, which belongs to us all. This is Arab unity. We no longer talk about constitutional unity. That is enough. We open our country to them. [passage omitted]

Now, the serious march begins after having acquired these experiences in order to reformulate our lives by revolutionary action. We should not take this lightly or as a joke. This is a matter of life or death. We should move from land that has no water to land that has water. We should benefit from the oil in order to realize this aim. I will be satisfied if Libyans feel for the first time that their oil has returned to them equally. But we want you to draw up the policy regarding how you will administer it. I say that we should use it in order to reach the waters—land which has water constantly. Otherwise, hospitals will close down; other establishments will be closed and universities and companies will be closed; even towns will be closed without water. I told you that the great manmade river is the last historic gigantic attempt to save life in this region. [passage omitted]

We should not die of thirst and without water while the land of the Arabs has water, like Iraq and the Gulf, who are fighting each other. What absurdity is this? There is water in Iraq—the Tigris and the Euphrates, from which pipelines carrying water should be built to take water to Kuwait and then Saudi Arabia and to Yemen. They fight each other on behalf of the enemy. This is idiotic. It will be equally idiotic if we stay in a land that has nothing but salt while we have the masses. [passage omitted]

Generally speaking, I am very confident of the Libyan people and their choices, especially that the people have become free and can determine their own destiny. The people are trained and entered into very important and historic battles, from which they definitely derived useful lessons. I am confident of Libyan expertise and Libyan organizations, from which Sudan, Chad, and Egypt will benefit. [passage omitted]

I am pleased with the achievements realized by the Libyan people and this self-confidence and this enthusiasm. [chanting: We are with you, O leader]

Forward and the struggle continues.

Al-Qadhdhafi Reaffirms Authority of People's Court

LD1111101292 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has saluted the Libyan Arab people who are building their authority with confidence and enthusiasm and he urged the masses of the communes to complete the final election of their representatives before the end of next week.

In a statement to JANA, the brother leader of the revolution said: Let everyone know that the rulings of the People's Court, which was set up by the General People's Congress, cannot be challenged at all from the democratic, legal, and revolutionary aspects. We only have to implement the court's rulings with every respect.

In his statement, the leader called on the members of the revolutionary committees in every commune to help the departments of the People's Court throughout the Great Jamahiriyah complete the investigations concerning the appeals on the elections before the end of this week.

Committee for Economic Cooperation With Chad Meets

LD1411095692 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Harth [November] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan Arab-Chadian Joint Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation began its meetings last night in Tripoli.

Attending the meeting were the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and on the Chadian side the minister of cooperation and planning and a number of technicians and experts from the Jamahiriyah and Chad.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice welcomed the Chadian delegation stressing the historical, social and geographical bonds linking the two countries.

The Chadian minister for cooperation and planning on his part expressed deep satisfaction over the existing cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad and the importance of relations between the two countries.

During this meeting a number of committees were set up including the Committee for Economic Cooperation, the Committee for Technical Cooperation and the General Drafting Committee to lay down a programme of cooperation to be submitted to the joint committee for approval.

Convicted Murderers Executed by Hanging 10 Nov

LD1111113392 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpts] JANA has learned that in implementation of the penal code, particularly Articles 430 to 437, death sentences passed by the criminal courts were carried out after they were upheld by the Supreme Court in accordance with the law. The sentences were passed on people convicted of premeditated murder. [Begin recording of unidentified man in uniform] This morning, Tuesday, 10 November 1992, a number of people who had been found guilty of committing brutal and premeditated murders were executed by hanging. [passage omitted]

In response to the resolutions passed by the Basic People's Congresses in their various sessions on the implementation of the laws and the resolute and vigorous fight against crime and the criminals, to deter these people who have transgressed the traditions, customs, and characteristics of the Muslim Libyan Arab society, and in implementation of the penal and criminal codes and other laws aimed at deterring the criminals who commit these crimes, particularly serious crimes that constitute abnormal behavior in society, and since the Great Green Book on Human Rights stipulates that the goal of the Jamahiri society is to abolish capital punishment, and until this is achieved only those who constitute a threat to society or who corrupt it will be executed. [sentence as heard]

This applies to the people who have been sentenced to death by the criminal courts in Tripoli, Benghazi, and al-Misratah. Appeals were presented to the Supreme Court, which is the highest judicial body in the Great Jamahiriyah, but the Supreme Court decided, in its various sessions held since 1990 and until November 1992, to uphold the sentences. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Morocco

Agriculture Minister Desmati Relieved of Duties

LD1611194392 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] We have just received information about a royal activity. His Majesty King Hassan II—may God make him victorious—received in the royal court at noon today Mr. Othman Desmati, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, who requested that His Majesty relieve him of his ministerial responsibilities, for private reasons.

Our master, supported by God, accepted his request, and praised—may God protect him—the efforts which the minister exerted in his ministerial duties over the past 10 years.

New Minister Appointed

LD1711221492 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed at his side, this evening at the throne hall at the Royal Palace in Rabat received Abdelaziz Meziane, former secretary general at the Ministry of Public Works, Vocational, and Cadre Training, and appointed him as minister of agriculture and agrarian reform to succeed Othman Desmati. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says Army To Recapture Three Towns

AB2011092392 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 19 (AFP)—Sudanese junta leader 'Umar al-Bashir has said the Army will soon recapture three towns in south Sudan from rebels, including their base at Kajo Kali, the Armed Forces daily newspaper reported Thursday.

General al-Bashir told a rally Wednesday [18 November] that the Army will "soon enter Kajo Kaji, Meridi and Nimole," three towns in the southwest of the southernmost Equatoria Province, Al-Guwwat al-Musallaha reported.

Colonel John Garang's rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting for nine years to end Islamic domination of the south, is based at Kajo Kali, the paper said.

"We have knocked at every door to try to obtain peace, but the arrogance of the rebel movement forces us to resort to the military solution," al-Bashir said on the White Nile island of Aba, 200 kilometres (125 miles) south of Khartoum.

Government troops began a major offensive early this year, recapturing a dozen towns in the eastern part of south Sudan, including the SPLA's former headquarters town of Torit. The rebels still control places south and west of the main town in the south, Juba, to which they have laid siege.

RCC Deputy Chairman Denies Iranian Presence

EA1711202892 Khartoum SUNA in English 1650 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Nov (SUNA)—Deputy chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Maj-Gen Zubayr Muhammad Salih, has affirmed Sudan's desire for peace realization in the southern Sudan through dialogue. He said Sudan's peaceful proposals on solving the problem had led to defection of most southern citizens from the outlaws movement and [they had] joined the Sudan Government.

In an interview published by Qatari daily AL-SHARQ Monday [16 November], Maj-Gen Salih refuted allegations of the outlaws on presence of Iranian forces to fighting with the armed forces in the southern Sudan. Maj-Gen Salih further challenged the outlaws to present the alleged captured Iranians to the international mass media.

Differences Within Islamic Front Spread to Army

PM1611092692 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 11-17 Nov 92 p20

[Unattributed report: "Differences Within the Sudanese Islamic Front Reach the Army"]

[Text] There is talk in Sudanese circles inside Sudan and abroad of signs of sharp differences between the leaders of the ruling Islamic Front [NIF] and basically between the trend led by NIF Deputy Secretary General 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha and another trend sympathetic with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi. The trend led by the deputy secretary general is opposed to reconciliation with other political forces whereas the other trend believes that the situation is now deadlocked and has begun making preliminary contacts to find out how ready the other parties are for reconciliation with the NIF.

Sudanese sources have told AL-MAJALLAH that the differences are not confined to civilians and have reached the military, and that the strong man in government is now 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha and not Dr. al-Turabi as some people imagine. In fact, these sources say that al-Turabi's role is now marginal.

Despite all that, some members of the opposition abroad still believe that the whole thing is nothing more than the assignment of roles, with the aim of diverting attention from the large-scale campaign launched against hundreds of armed forces officers, civilian officials, and trade union leaders.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives on 2-Day Visit

Meets Turabi

EA1611203092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, will meet on 16 November Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who arrived in Khartoum today. The talks between the two presidents will deal with developments in the Palestinian situation and other issues of common interest.

Meanwhile the Palestinian president met this morning Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, the secretary general of the Arab and Islamic Popular Congress. Their meeting touched on developments in the occupied territories, the progress of the Palestinian uprising, and other issues of interest to the Islamic and Arab nation. President 'Arafat called on the Islamic Arab nation to be vigilant against Israeli conspiracies aimed at altering the position of noble Jerusalem as well as Israeli delaying tactics which had appeared in the Washington Middle East talks.

Mr. 'Arafat said that a meeting of the foreign ministers of the confrontation states with Israel would be held in Beirut towards the end of this month following the conclusion of the current round of talks between the Arabs and Israel.

It is worth mentioning that President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the country this morning and was met by Major General Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers.

Leaves 17 Nov

EA1711221992 Khartoum SUNA in English 1634 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Nov (SUNA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left here Tuesday [17 November] concluding a two-day visit to Sudan during which he met with the RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, and reviewed with him Arab and the Palestinian developments and the ongoing intifadah (uprising) in occupied lands. 'Arafat also attended Monday the celebration of the Armed Forces on the occasion of graduation of the 41st batch at the military college which includes a number of Palestinian cadets.

President 'Arafat was seen off at the airport by RCC Deputy Chairman Maj-Gen Zubayr Muhammad Salih, RCC Secretary-General Brig Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, and the Palestinian ambassador to Sudan, Abu Raja'i.

Iraqi Deputy Council Speaker Begins Visit 16 Nov

EA1711155092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1646 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Nov (SUNA)—The deputy speaker of [the] Iraqi National Council, Ghanim 'Aziz, arrived in Khartoum [on] Monday on a several-day visit to the country. The Iraqi parliamentarian is carrying a message from [the] speaker of the Iraqi National Council to his Sudanese counterpart, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, dealing with the parliamentary ties between the two sisterly countries.

Delivers Letter to Speaker

JN1711131192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 17 Nov (INA)—Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Sudanese National Transitional Council, received here today Ghanim 'Aziz, deputy speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly.

During the meeting, Khalifah received a written message from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih on coordination of joint stands between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Sudanese National Transitional

Council in the Arab and international arenas in order to lift the unjust economic blockade that has been imposed against Iraq for more than two years. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir, UN Official Discuss Displaced People

EA1511140592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers, has confirmed that the revolution has committed itself to all the recommendations and resolutions of the national conference on peace issues and the conference on displaced people. He also confirmed that these resolutions have now come into force, particularly those that pertain to the issues of displacement in Sudan. He said this during his meeting in his office today with the representative of the UN secretary general for displaced peoples' affairs, Dr. Francis Deng. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir reviewed developments in dealing with displaced people and the revolution's efforts to provide security and food.

Dr. Francis Deng said the national salvation government is regarded as the first government in Sudan with a clear vision on aims and means to achieve peace in the South. About the conditions of displaced people in Sudan, the representative of the UN secretary general for displaced peoples' affairs said his field visit to the displaced persons' camp in Dar al-Salam, in Khartoum, and southern Kurdufan camps confirmed the revolution's earnest efforts to solve the issues of the displaced. He expressed his appreciation for the services that it has been providing for the displaced.

Tunisia

German Foreign Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit

LD1911134992 Hamburg DPA in German 1210 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Tunis (DPA)—German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel arrived in Tunis today after his two-day visit to Israel. He will mainly discuss developments in the Middle East with his counterpart Habib Ben Yahia. Tunisian Government sources said a meeting with President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, which was not originally planned, is considered probable. On the other hand, a meeting between Kinkel and representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which has its headquarters in Tunis, is not planned. Earlier, Palestinian leaders in Jerusalem refused to meet Kinkel in protest. [passage omitted]

Calls For Cooperation

LD1911223592 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahia held talks today with his German counterpart, following which they both co-chaired an extended working session. Their talks focused on issues of common political interest. Specifically, at the bilateral level the two sides expressed satisfaction with Tunisian-German cooperation while at the same time raising issues intended to enhance links in a manner reflecting the strong, traditional level of ties existing between the two countries. In particular, the ministers noted the preparatory meetings of the joint financial committee session, due to be held in Tunis soon.

Meanwhile, the Tunisian minister noted that Tunisia was nearing the completion of its debt rescheduling. Regarding the European Community, the Tunisian delegation indicated Tunisia's readiness to welcome the emergence of the single European market, especially as Tunisia is preparing to assume the Arab Maghreb Union presidency.

With respect to this, Habib Ben Yahia emphasized that it was in Europe's interest to facilitate the emergence of a developed and democratic Maghreb group and to contribute to creating favorable conditions for the establishment of security and stability in the region.

The two sides also discussed international issues, in particular the Middle East, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other matters relating to Mediterranean basin development, security, and peace.

First Joint Committee Session With DPRK Held

LD1311220792 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] The first session of the joint Tunisian-DPRK committee, which took place in Tunis from 9 to 12 November, made it possible to embody the will that prompted the two countries to realize rapprochement and consequently draw up a framework for bilateral cooperation.

This was stressed by Salah Hamdi, the secretary of state in charge of trade at the Office of the National Economy Minister when he and the DPRK deputy minister of external economic affairs signed the minutes of the meetings of this session. The DPRK guest, on his part, observed that his visit to Tunisia and the talks he had with numerous members of the government reflected the clear desire to vitalize cooperation and widen it so that it embraces new fields.

Qatar To Boycott GCC Summit Over Border Dispute

PM1911142092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Nov 92 pp1, 4

[George Sam'an report: "Qatar To Boycott 13th Gulf Summit"]

[Excerpts] Muscat—Gulf diplomatic sources have confirmed that the mediations undertaken by some Gulf states have so far failed to settle the border dispute between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Qatar and have also failed to persuade Qatar to participate in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] meetings.

They said that Qatar will almost certainly boycott the Gulf states' 13th summit conference scheduled to be held in Abu-Dhabi on 22 December. [passage omitted]

Informed sources who have been following the mediations by Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Oman say that in Oman's recent attempt, Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah tried to persuade Qatar not to link its participation in GCC activities to any bilateral differences.

The same sources say that Saudi officials requested that, as a first step and before any other step, Doha sign a document recognizing Saudi sovereignty over the disputed area, emphasizing that the agreement signed by the two countries in 1965 confirmed that sovereignty. Qatar did not agree. So the problem and Qatar's participation in the GCC activities remain unresolved.

Gulf diplomatic sources say that, in view of this situation, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, Bahrain, and Kuwait have decided to resume their cooperation meetings and to make the necessary decisions in the hope that Qatar would rejoin the GCC activities later. They believe that Qatar will sooner or later return to the GCC and its activities because of the six states' common interests. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Urges Continued Sanctions on Iraq

LD1911080792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 18 November (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the acting prime minister and foreign minister, today called on the UN Security Council to continue the imposition of economic sanctions on Iraq until it submits to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In a statement to journalists on the approach of the starting date for the meetings of the UN Security Council's sanctions committee, he added that Kuwait hopes that "the Security Council will ensure its responsibility to force Iraq to implement the resolutions pertaining to the ending of the war of the liberation of Kuwait." The committee is expected to resume its regular meetings on 24 November to measure the extent of Iraq's adherence to the implementation of the UN Security Council's resolutions and the degree of progress achieved in that sphere.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad pointed out that Minister of Information Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah will represent Kuwait at the meetings of the aforementioned international committee. He said that the Kuwaiti government selected the information minister in order for him to "reply to the allegations of the head of the Iraqi delegation, Tariq 'Aziz." In that context, Shaykh Sabah expressed his hope that "Tariq 'Aziz will admit his mistakes" during the meetings. [passage omitted]

Iranian Envoy Criticizes GCC Statement on Abu Musa

LD1611104092 Tehran IRNA in English 1403 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov. 16, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait Hossein Sadeqi has criticized the communique issued at the end of the session of defence ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council with regards to Abu Musa island.

The Iranian diplomat in a meeting with Kuwaiti Defence Minister Ahmad Hamud al-Sabah in Kuwait city Monday said Iran's policy towards the island has not changed. He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is for a comprehensive cooperation among the Persian Gulf countries for establishment of security.

The two officials also reviewed issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

Country's Interests Govern Choice of Arms

PM1711155092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Adnan al-Lughani report: "'Ali al-Salim: Our Choice of Weapons Governed by Kuwait's Interests"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has emphasized that numerous interests govern the process of selecting and purchasing weapons for the Kuwaiti Army, at the forefront of which is one single criterion, namely Kuwait's interests. He said that "Kuwait realizes that the weapons introduced into the Gulf region, especially the new types like submarines, could be used to stir up problems in the region." He pointed out that "Kuwait will be careful in dealing with them, whether they are on its side or against it, that is through coordination with the brothers and friends." [passage omitted]

This came in a statement made by Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim to SAWT AL-KUWAYT yesterday, in which he said that the "Kuwaiti Armed Forces conducted several exercises and maneuvers with fraternal and friendly forces. And the next plan for 1992/93 provides for the continuation of these exercises. They will include several air, sea, and land maneuvers with some brothers." [passage omitted]

On the reports that there are interests which govern the process of arming the Kuwaiti forces, the defense minister said "yes, there are specific interests which are taken into account when selecting weapons for the Kuwaiti Army, namely Kuwait's interests. And if there are any other interests, we do not approve of or recognize them. This is because Kuwait's interests are above anything else. Thus no weapons were selected in the past or will be selected in the future on the basis of other criteria, unless these criteria are to do with the interests of the Kuwaiti fighter who will use these weapons; the interests of the military unit which will possess these weapons; the interests of the Kuwait Army in general—which is Kuwait's interests in general."

Asked about the regional arms race and the introduction of new weapons into the Arab Gulf region like war submarines, and Kuwait's position on these developments, the defense minister said: "Without doubt every state is entitled to choose the weapons it wants. And it has the absolute right to defend itself. And the introduction of some military equipment into neighboring states is natural."

He added: "We do not want to be ill-intentioned people, because we have always been well-intentioned people. But these weapons, whether they are for funereal, friendly, or neighboring states, should be taken into consideration—which requires us to be very careful in dealing with them, whether they are on our side or against us."

He emphasized that Kuwait is fully aware that these weapons "could be used to stir up some problems in the Arab Gulf region. But through coordination with the brothers and friends—and with God's help—we will be able to contain any future problems." [passage omitted]

Oman

Sultan Delivers National Day Address

JN1911101292 Muscat WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Muscat, 18 Nov (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has stressed that his country will continue its efforts aimed at averting anything that may destabilize the region or undermine its security.

In an address this evening on the 23rd anniversary of the Sultanate of Oman's national day, he stressed that his country will continue to work with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to bolster the Council's joint march aimed at realizing welfare, development, prosperity, and progress for all peoples of the region.

Sultan Qabus said Oman's policy is founded on basic constants and main principles represented by good neighborly relations, noninterference in the internal affairs of others, respect for international laws and norms, support for cooperation among countries and dialogue between them, reflecting our belief that resolving differences in a spirit of concord and understanding is the civilized way to deal with matters and leads to better and more stable results.

Based on this, he said, his country is seeking with all its potentials and capabilities to contribute to the causes of peace at all regional and international levels, while it commits itself to a clear and objective position and reasonable policy in handling any issue.

He said this policy has helped his country to establish positive relations with all world countries and people to support the Omani efforts to maintain stability in the region and a constructive fraternal, friendly, and cooperative spirit among its peoples, and to contain any differences that may have adverse results, which should be avoided for the good of all parties and so that the countries of the region can devote themselves to implementing their development plans and building their own capabilities.

In his address, Sultan Qabus referred to the current ethnic and racial conflicts in various parts of the world—conflicts which bother the human conscience and cast doubt on the credibility of the new world order. He regretted that Muslims in many parts of the world are suffering from sectarian persecution, ethnic cleansing, massacres of men, women, and children, and other inhuman practices that are committed without the deterrence of morals, religion, or conscience.

Sultan Qabus called on the civilized countries and peoples of the world to quickly intervene to stop the regrettable incidents from which some minorities in the world are daily suffering under the eyes of the world. He warned that to continue watching what is going on without embarking on any effective measures that correct the situation will open the road to an evil that cannot be stopped, and that will be full of bloody tragedies whose outcome cannot be predicted.

He said that extending food assistance is not enough to put an end to the sufferings of the elderly, innocent children, and helpless women because the war machine, which is spreading destruction, cannot be stopped without serious confrontation and joint efforts.

In his address, Sultan Qabus spoke about the tragedy of the Palestinian people and said this tragedy has lasted for a long time without reaching a solution. He said that his country, while awaiting the outcome of the Middle East peace talks, is calling for speedy and urgent action to end the daily suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation. Oman also calls for more support and assistance for efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peaceful solution that restores rights to their owners and guarantees security, peace, and stability to the countries of the region.

Saudi Arabia

Morocco's Filali Delivers King's Message To Fahd

LD1911161792 Riyadh SPA in English 1217 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 19, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud has received a message from King Hassan of Morocco.

The message was handed over by the Moroccan Foreign and Cooperation Minister, Dr. Abdul Abdellatif Filali who was received by the Saudi monarch at the royal court here Wednesday.

The royal audience was attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister and Mohamed Tazi, the Moroccan ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Filali arrived in Jeddah on Wednesday and was greeted at the airport by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and many officials.

[At 1238 GMT on 19 November Riyadh SPA in English broadcasts the following message: "Dr. Abdellatif Filali, the Moroccan minister of cooperation and foreign affairs left here today after a visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off at the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Salim Saabal, director general of the Foreign Ministry at the western region, Mohamed Tazi, the Moroccan ambassador to the Kingdom and many officials."]

Yemen

Aden Governor Resigns From Government, Party Posts

PM1611111492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Nov 92 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Aden Governor Resigns From His Government and Party Posts"]

[Excerpt] Aden—Yemeni party and government sources have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Aden Governor Mahmud al-'Arasi submitted his resignation from his post in a letter to the Yemeni Presidential Council and asked 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Socialist Party, to accept his resignation from the membership of the party's Central Committee, but the resignation has not yet been accepted.

The sources did not explain the reasons which prompted Al-'Arasi to submit his resignation. Nor did he mention them in his resignation letter, because he decided to keep them to himself, contrary to reports that it was "for health reasons" after he had received medical treatment in the British capital for over a month.

Government circles have said that Al-'Arasi decided to resign because of the confusion from which Aden is suffering. The sources did not rule out that the reason for the resignation could be the existence of severe differences between him and party officials due to their interference in his affairs as a governor.

Speculation suggests that perhaps the governor submitted his resignations for political reasons related to the parties' struggle to win Aden citizens' votes in the upcoming parliamentary elections and their lament over deteriorating conditions in the city, the Yemeni Socialist Party's principal base.

Observers say that it was party companionship over the free zone project in Aden and the complications obstructing its implementation which prompted the governor to submit his resignation. [passage omitted]

Vice President Confers With 'Arafat 16 Nov

JN1611173992 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, at presidential palace today. Discussions at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas in light of the results of the latest round of peace negotiations.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat and his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid reviewed the latest Palestinian and Arab developments, particularly those dealing with the dangerous situation in the Palestinian territories as a result of the escalating terrorism of the Israeli occupation forces. He stressed that the peace process and the bilateral negotiations are at a stalemate due to the intransigent Israeli position which rejects discussing the core of the Palestinian question, which is implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people.

The two sides stressed the importance of adhering to a unified Arab position toward the Israeli intransigence. They also emphasized the importance of Arab coordination and that Israeli maneuvers should not be allowed to single out any Arab party.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed our country's firm position on the Palestine question and its support for the full rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return [words indistinct] and the right to set up an independent state whose capital is holy Jerusalem.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr. 'Abdallah Hasayn Barakat, Consultative Council member; Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to President 'Arafat; the ambassador of the state of Palestine to our country; and a number of officials.

'Arafat Departs 16 Nov

JN1611213392 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, left Sanaa this afternoon. He was seen off at the airport by several brother officials and the Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa.

Talabani, Barzani Discuss Tripartite Ankara Meeting

NC1911172292 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] 1600—At 1030 on Wednesday, 18 November, brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], received Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], and members of the KDP Political Bureau.

At the outset of the meeting, brother Talabani welcomed the KDP leader and his delegation. The two sides discussed the outcome of the meeting among the Iranian, Syrian, and Turkish foreign ministers in Ankara.

The two sides agreed to forge ahead with organizing and unifying the peshmerga ranks and to coordinate their media. The PUK and KDP officials discussed ways of strengthening the basis of the parliament and government of Kurdistan. The two sides reiterated their determination to achieve this objective to ensure security and stability and revive the economic situation in Kurdistan.

The meeting ended at 1700.

UINC Criticizes Ankara Meeting

NC1911161192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] The Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] has affirmed its adherence to Iraq's unity. It criticized the meeting of Syrian, Turkish, and Iranian foreign ministers in Ankara. In a statement issued recently, the UINC described statements by some participants at the Ankara meeting on the Iraqi opposition's Salah ad Din conference as containing criticism of their conference. It pointed out that the UINC is struggling against dictatorship to set up a democratic regime and put an end to racial and sectarian discrimination. The foreign ministers of Syria, Turkey, and Iran stressed that they refuse to acknowledge the entity quo in northern Iraq. They declared that any decision dealing with the ruling system in Iraq should be a democratic one.

Rasul Named Governor of Kalar

NC1911185292 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Decree issued by the Iraqi Kurdistan region's Council of Ministers]

[Text] Proceeding from a proposal by the Iraqi Kurdistan region's Council of Ministers and in accordance with Law No. 2/1992, we have decided to appoint Mr. Mustafa Qadir, known as Mustafa Kawrza, governor of Kalar's Governorate.

Signed: Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, prime minister of the Kurdistan region, on 18 November 1992.

Saddam Said Creating 'Mini-Capital' in Tikrit

NC1911151192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] These days, the coward Saddam's regime is trying to create a mini-capital in Tikrit, and it has transported equipment to build huge tunnels and dig trenches, secret storage areas, and other fortified locations to Tikrit.

In another development, reliable military sources close to us have reported that secret cells have been formed recently which the regime might use when it feels threatened. These cells are monitored by the terrorism committee, which has been formed with the criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the tyrant's minister of defense, as chairman. The criminal Husayn Kamil is helping to [word indistinct] including Saddam's Tikrit family in the secret cells.

Leaflets Call For Toppling Saddam's Regime

NC1911150992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] During the past week, numerous anti-Saddam leaflets have been circulating in al-Miqdadiyah district of Diyala Governorate. The leaflets demand toppling the tyrant's regime, which they describe as a criminal regime that has committed the ugliest crimes against the sons of our people while it has been in control of the country.

These leaflets, which were circulated in the streets and squares of al-Miqdadiyah, called on all the nonCriminal party members and regime's sons to join the ranks of the people and resistance. The leaflets of these people who reject the tyrant condemn the moving of divisions from the south to the north of Baghdad, including the area of Diyala, for execution by Saddam's executioners.

Rebel Radio on Regime Troops Massing in South

NC1911153192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Some of Saddam's military forces have carried out live ammunition night exercises in the operation sector of what is called al-Rashid. This exercise was attended by the criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the tyrant's defense minister, and the mercenary al-Hazwani, the Saddamite Army's chief of staff.

Informed sources report that Saddam's accomplices, among the leaders of what is called the al-Faruq forces, supervised these exercises in their attempt to restore confidence to the members of the force after the latter's morale was shattered and confidence shaken in their ability [words indistinct] from among the 'Alluqiyin.

These hateful activities coincide with a massing of military forces by Saddam's dictator regime in the southern sector of the country with the intention to attack the people of the marshlands.

Commandos Claimed in Clashes With Saddam's Men

JN1911150392 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Our popular forces continue to strike Saddam's vanquished gangs in the south of the country. A few days ago our jihad groups waged a blitz attack on Saddamite military vehicles travelling between al-Nasiriyah and al-'Amarah. During the attack, our men burned down Royal Land Cruiser cars, killing all the defeated regime's henchmen inside.

Elsewhere, our heroic groups attacked men belonging to Saddam's regime in a cement factory in al-'Amarah Governorate. The attack left several of the tyrant's henchmen dead and destroyed many of the regime's weapons and equipment.

While our heroic groups were withdrawing after destroying the factory, they clashed with a company belonging to the enemy Saddam's forces, inflicting many losses on the company. Our military sources reported that over 15 company mercenaries were killed.

Saddam Meets Party Command Members in Baghdad

JN1811074792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Leader Comrade Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, may God protect him, has held a meeting lasting six and a half hours, with members of the Iraq Command. Those were Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, official in charge of the al-Karkh branches; Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, official in charge of the al-Rusafah branches; and the members of the commands of the party branches in Baghdad.

'Aziz Departs, To Address Security Council 23 Nov

JN2011121992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—Today, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz left for Amman en route to New York.

INA has learned that Tariq 'Aziz will, on Monday, 23 November, deliver a comprehensive statement to the UN Security Council in which he will discuss the unfair and arbitrary position the Security Council has taken against Iraq under pressure from the Bush administration. 'Aziz will stress Iraq's stand on the issues related to the measures imposed on Iraq according to the Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687. He will also discuss the Iraqi people's suffering resulting from the unjust blockade, which continues despite Iraq's implementation of the arbitrary measures imposed on it because of the ruthless course pursued by the Bush administration, in collaboration with Western countries, out of colonialist schemes and objectives against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Asked by the INA correspondent if he expects a Security Council resolution lifting the blockade after his scheduled meeting with the Council, 'Aziz said: We do not expect the Council to issue such a resolution immediately after the meeting. Bush's administration, which still runs U.S. policy, and its Western allies are still sticking to the arbitrary position they have taken in the past.

Answering another INA question on the use of meeting with the Council under these circumstances before the Council lifts the blockade, 'Aziz said: In March of this year, we met with the Security Council and presented it with a comprehensive statement on the measures implemented by Iraq. Although Bush's administration and its allies always tried to keep these facts from the Council and world public opinion, that meeting had a positive influence on a number of Council members and the United Nations in general. However, the circumstances surrounding the U.S. presidential elections and Bush's need to escalate tension and fabricate crises with Iraq for election purposes have prevented those positive results from developing further.

The deputy prime minister added: But now the U.S. election campaign is over and we hope the presentation of facts and explaining Iraq's viewpoint to the Council will lead to the emergence of new circumstances.

'Aziz stressed that Iraq will ask the Council to face its responsibilities. Iraq, he said, will prove with hard evidence that the Council has not fulfilled its obligations toward the Iraqi people and is employing double standards when dealing with Iraq and the regional affairs.

The deputy prime minister added: In spite of the fact that we do not expect a resolution to lift the blockade immediately after the meeting, we expect the meeting to lead to a better understanding of Iraq's position by the Council and world public opinion. This would help increase the pressure and the calls to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and review the arbitrary measures taken against our people and country.

Tariq 'Aziz is accompanied by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Deadline Extension on Banned Goods Discussed

JN1911183992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] In implementation of the decision banning the circulation of commodities and goods dropped from the list of importable materials, a joint meeting has been held between the Ministries of Interior and Trade. The meeting was attended by the ministers of interior and trade and concerned parties from both ministries.

During the meeting, the tasks of joint operation centers and the work of committees in Baghdad and the governorates were clarified to guarantee the accurate implementation of the decision. These committees will begin work on 11 December 1992.

During the meeting, Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan stressed the importance of cooperation between governors and concerned authorities to organize a comprehensive awareness campaign, involving all merchants and shopkeepers, to explain to them the importance of compliance with the decision. The minister said that stringent and deterrent measures will be taken against violators, noting that the ban imposed on the aforementioned materials covers any and all areas within Iraq.

In his remarks during the meeting, Trade Minister Dr. Mohammed Mahdi Salih indicated that applied measures will be adopted when the deadline for banning the circulation of commodities expires. He affirmed that Trade Ministry authorities will precisely follow up on market activity, taking into consideration coordination with Interior Ministry authorities to guarantee the implementation of the objectives for the sake of which the decision was adopted.

During the meeting, it was decided to set up joint operation centers in the governorates to cover governorates' capital cities, districts, and subdistricts. It was also decided to establish committees to implement the decision in accordance with the agreed-upon mechanism as part of a precise plan of social management to implement the central instructions.

Ba'th Party Delegation Leaves For Ankara on Visit

JN1911125092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1153 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—An Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation, headed by 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Ba'th Party Iraq Command, left for Ankara today on a several-day visit to T[illegible]key at the invitation of Turkish parties.

The delegation will hold talks with the Turkish parties and discuss the bolstering of party relations and ties between the two neighborly countries.

Saddam Receives Cable From Islamic Jihad Leader

JN1811114992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, in which he expressed his deep faith in the inevitability of Iraq's victory and that it will foil colonialist-Zionist schemes aiming to undermine its national unity, as well as the present and future of the Arab nation.

The cable says: The fruit of the Mother of Battles has begun to ripen. As your excellency noted: "We have sown the seeds and the harvest will follow". That is why Bush has fallen, and he will be followed by those midget agents who are still conspiring against great Iraq.

Go forward, with God's blessing, and hold fast to God. God will grant victory to his faithful followers. May God achieve victory and liberate the holy land at your hands. God hears and answers our prayers.

Saddam Congratulates Leaders on Special Occasions

Omani Sultan on National Day

JN1811093092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on his country's national day and on his birthday.

The cable says: On the national day of the brotherly Sultanate of Oman and on your birthday, we are pleased to extend to your majesty, in the name of the people of Iraq and on my personal behalf, our best brotherly congratulations. We wish your majesty continued good health and happiness and the brotherly Omani Arab people continued progress and prosperity.

We ask God Almighty to help us serve our two brotherly countries and our glorious Arab nation.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Moroccan King on Independence Day

JN1811091692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to His Majesty King Hasan II of the brotherly Kingdom of Morocco, on the Kingdom's independence anniversary.

The cable reads: On the independence anniversary of the fraternal Kingdom of Morocco, I am pleased to extend to your majesty, in the name of the people of Iraq and on my personal behalf, our sincerest brotherly congratulations. We wish your majesty continued good health and happiness and the fraternal Moroccan Arab people more progress, might, and prosperity. We also wish the brotherly relations between Iraq and Morocco continued progress and development in the interest of our glorious Arab nation.

May God guide us to please Him, uphold justice, and unite the ranks of Arabs and Muslims. God is the best to protect and help. [part of Koranic verse]

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

'Arafat on Anniversary

JN1511111792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Hussayn has sent a cable to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the fourth anniversary of the proclamation of the state of Palestine.

The cable says: On the fourth anniversary of the proclamation of the state of Palestine, it pleases us to extend to you, to our brothers within the PLO, and to the fraternal Palestinian Arab people our heartfelt congratulations, as well as our sincere fraternal sentiments. We entreat Almighty God to grant the exploited Palestinian Arab people further strength and resolve to continue their just struggle to realize their objectives of liberation and sovereignty on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. We also beseech Almighty God to crown the Palestinian people's historic resolution with certain victory. We wish our glorious Arab nation constant pride, glory, and prosperity.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Prime Minister Vows To Exhaust Peace Negotiations

TA1911183792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this evening that we have taken the path of peace negotiations, which will not stop before it is exhausted, even if it takes a year or two. Rabin says that he does not see any difficulties with regard to U.S. aid to Israel in the coming year because it has been guaranteed until September 1993. The prime minister made the remarks in an address before the Israel-America Chamber of Commerce in Tel Aviv, and our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich heard him there:

[Begin recording] [Lazarovich] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the positions Israel has taken in the negotiations with the Arabs and the change it made in the order of its national priorities have yielded results on two levels: economic, expressed in more openness to Israel in the world, and political.

[Rabin] We have started moving along the path of negotiations for peace and I do not believe that we, and certainly some of the Arab delegations, would stop before the process has ended in agreements—even if this takes another six months or a year.

[Lazarovich] Regarding the state budget, Rabin said that the government has taken some risky moves in its attempt to reduce the deficit, but he believes that we can endure. Rabin does not share the view of the pessimists regarding U.S. aid. According to him, everything is guaranteed until September 1993, the end of the U.S. budgetary year.

[Rabin] Everything has been approved: $3 billion at the beginning of October; the American check for $1.2 billion was handed to the Finance Ministry. They will give us the civilian aid in one chunk, in the first half of the first month of the budgetary year.

[Lazarovich] The prime minister stressed the necessity to enhance the potential of reciprocal purchases between Europe and Israel, and the need for Israeli companies to buy Israel products, which would increase employment in Israel. He also urged privatization, saying that the government should not be managing companies. Rabin also addressed the problems of Israel's defense industries, saying that their transition to the production of civilian goods will be very difficult. [end recording]

Delegates Return, Comment on Peace Talks

TA2011113592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] We came, we talked, we made no progress, and we have another date in December. This is the laconic summary of the seventh round of Washington peace talks. The Israeli delegates returned home this morning.

Here is what Uzi Narkis said about the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation:

[Begin Rabinowitz recording] Basically the talks with the Palestinians were businesslike. There were many discussions in informal groups. As for content, I regret to say the conceptual gap has not been bridged as yet. Unfortunately, the Palestinians tend to focus on the tricky parts of the negotiations, parts which are often irresolvable in these negotiations—such as Jerusalem and so forth—instead of addressing, as we would very much like, a variety of positive proposals for the powers of the interim arrangements in fields which have not been dealt with so far, such as trade, industry, agriculture, municipal issues, health, education, water. We hope sincerely that the Palestinians will reach an understanding with us on the concept [preceding word in English], and then we will be able to move on to all these fields, as well as to issues such as the elections.

I cannot say I come bearing news, but the negotiations are continuing, will continue; there is no reason not to continue. [end recording]

And here are Uri Lubrani's observations about the seventh round of talks with the Lebanese delegation:

[Begin Lubrani recording] The events in the north in the first half of the seventh round had an acute impact on the work of the committee. There were a few days in which we were unable to do anything of substance because of the events in the north. In the past two or three days, however, we went back to a businesslike discussion of our proposal concerning talks between Army officers from both sides. We discussed an amended proposal, which accounted for the comments of the other side.

Toward the end of the round, we explained at length the amendments we introduced into the proposal. We wanted the Lebanese delegation to be able to present the matter to its superiors when it returns home, hoping that when they return for an eighth round, we will be able to hold a realistic discussion. [end recording]

Our correspondent Jack Katzenell brings the remarks of Professor Itamar Rabinovich, who negotiated with the Syrians:

[Begin Rabinovich recording] The first part, prior to the consultations we held during the U.S. elections, was very good, very productive. The part which began on 9 November, after the U.S. elections, got off on the wrong foot. For reasons of their own, the Syrians very sharply, very vociferously demanded to receive, first and foremost, a commitment for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, making everything else contingent on this.

Toward the end of the round, however, the Syrians said in no uncertain way that they will report for the talks on 7 December. Our last session was conducted in a very pleasant atmosphere. We were not on the verge of a joint statement or a joint declaration of principles—

obviously, it was too late in the round for that—but I think both sides were seriously determined to achieve it in one of the next meetings, perhaps even the very next. We have laid the foundations, with each side telling the other how it believes progress should be made. [end recording]

PLO To Decide on Continued Participation in Talks

TA2011083692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, an adviser to 'Arafat, says that PLO-Tunis has not decided whether the Palestinians will continue to participate in the peace talks or quit. He believes the Palestinian leadership will discuss the matter after the delegation returns from Washington.

Our correspondent Ya'el Dar reports that in an interview with AL-ITTIHAD, a HAKAH [New Communist List] newspaper in Arabic, Sha'th says that what Israel proposed in the peace talks is autonomy for the settlers, not for the Arab residents of the territories. He believes the self-rule offered by Israel will not lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Aide Denies Rabin Said 'Palestine' in Interview

TA1911115792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Nov 92 p A8

[Excerpt] Paris (ITIM-AFP)—In an interview with the French weekly LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR due to appear today, Rabin says he believes in the possibility of "a federal compromise between Israel and Palestine," which will be joined by countries such as Jordan and Syria. According to him, "a Palestinian entity can exist without assuming the form of an independent state. It can assume any other form, such as a federation."

HA'ARETZ correspondent Yossi Tal adds: Yesterday Eytan Haber, the prime minister's media adviser, who was present at the interview, denied that Rabin had used the term "Palestine" when referring to the need for a federal compromise. Haber said that while Rabin referred to "Palestinians," interviewer Jean Daniel may have "confused Palestine with Palestinians," and in any event, the prime minister was not referring to a federal compromise between Israel and the state of Palestine. [passage omitted]

Bank Governor Fruchtal on Economy, Peace Talks

TA2011114692 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 19 Nov 92

["Excerpts" from a Government Press Office "briefing on economy and the peace process" with Professor Ya'aqov Frenkel, governor of the Bank of Israel, in Jerusalem on 19 November]

[Text] As I look today at the Isr'eli economy, I am optimistic. We are at an important crossroads. I think we are very well positioned towards a new and true takeoff, and that our initial conditions are right. (...)

[The following are] the key-points which give me this sense of optimism:

1. [Regarding] the economic growth in Israel, we have been growing now for the past two years at [an annual rate of] 6 percent in real terms, which is a very satisfactory rate (...).

2. For the first time in Israel's history, there is stabilization. (...)

We have lowered inflation from a very high number to about approximately 18 percent. We have designed a specific strategy a year ago which said that we must create the circumstances under which inflation must be reduced in a very significant way, but at the very same time the rest of the real economy, especially the export side, should be encouraged. And indeed, today, about a year after the implementation of such policy, I must say it was a major success. Inflation in Israel has been cut by half during this last year. I believe we will end the 1992 year with an inflation rate in the single digit.

At the same time, our performance in the export field has been very satisfactory; profitability of exports has increased, and exports are likely to increase this year by 14 percent. Our investments are a major source of the engine for growth, and therein we will be concentrating our efforts.

Concerning the budget adopted by the government, it reflects a very fundamental change in the order of priorities, a change which removes a lot of government outlays from the housing sector, a sector which has been overextended in the last year, towards activities which are more conducive to growth. Namely, the budget allows for a significant rise in infrastructure investment, it is a major activity that exactly reflects what the government wants to do. Likewise, a rise in the budget allocated to education.

The budget also allows for a cut in taxes and indeed we have adopted further measures which are consistent with that economic package:

1. We have modified very slightly in a more ambitious direction our exchange rate policy, a policy which has proven to be extremely successful during the past year in helping us stabilize inflation while maintaining profitability of exports as well as enabling us to lengthen the planning horizon of exporters. We have decided to keep it, and use it in the subsequent period.

2. Accelerated depreciation allowances.

3. A cut in corporation income taxes, larger budget for financing risking exports.

4. Cut in our V.A.T. [value added tax], which is consistent with a move which Israel has adopted towards European standards.

As a matter of fact, if I had to put an item on the banner of the Israeli strategy, it would be the internationalization of the Israeli economy moved on the engine of private enterprise. This means opening up further trade liberalization and capital market liberalization—where we have made already very significant achievements in the sense that our capital market is now much more open than ever before to foreign investments and Israelis can invest abroad, and this open window means that we must become much more integrated with the world economy.

Israel is the only country which has a simultaneously free trade agreement with the United States as well as a special relation with the European Community. The political changes which have been taking place during the past few months have accelerated Israel's capacity to be integrated into Europe. We are now at the midst of negotiations with the European Community to update and improve our affiliations with Europe, and at the end of the road we hope to be in a very unique position with one leg in the North American continent and another in the European continent, and here, as the peace process proceeds, Israel could be an extraordinary launching point for multinationals investments and economic activities.

As far as the peace process is concerned, there are several moves on the bilateral front and the multilateral front (...). There is growing awareness that political forces and economic forces mutually reinforce each other. (...) The economic strategy should be at least as important as the other elements of the political strategy. And indeed, within the multilateral peace talks there is a special committee for regional cooperation and economic development. Being a co-chairman of that committee, I can say that the meeting [of this committee] that took place in Paris two weeks ago had for the first time become much more concrete in the sense that a mechanism was set in place, areas of potential fruitful joint projects and ventures have been identified, and as the next meeting takes place in the early part of 1993, we are looking forward to further steps [thereto].

Of course, it is important to understand that our key issue is the successful absorption of the immigrants. We have had a very large flow of immigration during the past few years, and now we understand more than ever that if we really wish to continue to absorb these immigrants and to encourage further flows, we must be attractive as an economic entity.

Therefore, our decision to focus our attention to growth, investments, and jobs reflects both our understanding that good politics means good economics, that the future of Israel depends on a strong economy and our realization that a rapprochement, reconciliation and spreading-up of the immigration from the former Soviet Union requires very bright prospects in the job area. (...)

Q: Could you assess what effect could be felt on the Israeli economy and in the entire Middle East if the Arab boycott would be ended totally?

A: The Arab boycott is an important impediment to economic progress in the Middle East in general and it has a negative effect on the Israeli economy in particular.

There is no doubt that it has had a negative effect. There is also no doubt that its effects are diminishing over time, because the market system is highly responsive to incentives, and therefore it is within the interest of all economic entities to find ways around it, and indeed today the involvement of the foreign companies in Israel (...) [demonstrates] that the boycott is not as effective as it used to be. (...)

Financial links are as important as commercial links, and when it comes to financial links, it is a fact that foreign banking in Israel is not very prominent, and at the same time the regulations of the Bank of Israel and its various legislations are welcoming foreign banks, and we are extremely open towards foreign activities in the financial area (...). And here a more formal action [directed at] removing the boycott completely and forcing the illegality of it, could be very productive. It is utterly paradoxical that at the very same time when our talks about the peace process, and integration and economic cooperation, at a committee made up of forty countries participating in it, that the formal boycott is still allowed to be [in existence].

Q: At a time when Western countries are realizing more and more that John Maynard Keynes still has something to teach us, is there a risk that the Israeli economy going in the direction of privatization, with an emphasis on private enterprise, would be the last economy holding the Reagan-Thatcher economics?

A: (...) There is still a long way to go before this concern becomes a true concern. There are still a lot of segments in the Israeli economy which the government must depart themselves. There is a lot to privatize, and this should be the main concern. There is a complete political consensus [on the issue] with the backing of the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister (...). Yet, there is a bridge to be crossed which means how to mobilize the other entities in the economy, whether in the bureaucracy or other segments of the government, in order to ensure that the process goes on. (...)

Q: What do you expect from the European Community as far as the relations with Israel is concerned?

A: I would definitely like to see that at the end of the road Israel obtains full membership in the European Community. The EC is not just an economic arrangement, it is also a political arrangement, and it is fitting. Because as you look today at the structure of the Israeli economy, at the culture, at the income level, at the structure of industry, the distribution of income, at all socio-economic-political elements, one sees that Israel is part of Europe. In the past, whenever inquiries were made about greater involvement with

Europe, the supposes were not economic, but that the political conditions are not right. It is believed now that we are now on the road where the political conditions should be viewed as right. (...)

German Chief of Staff on Arms Sales, Other Issues

TA1911120592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] General Klaus Naumann, the German chief of staff, left Israel today at the end of a five-day official visit. It was the first visit ever by a German chief of staff, and before leaving, Gen. Naumann said military contacts would continue, mainly in the field of sophisticated technology. Military correspondent Alon Ben-'Ami reports from the German commander's news conference:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] The German chief of staff said both countries have benefited for many years from the exchange of information on military technology, and he was sure that Germany will seek to boost its military exports from Israel.

[Naumann] In this respect it was possible [illegible] to share findings which could be considered into decisions—individual decisions—on the armaments of both of our nations, and in this respect I think we cooperated and we will continue to cooperate.

[Ben-'Ami] Asked what he saw as a possible threat to peace and stability in the Middle East, Gen. Naumann pointed to the repercussions of the breakup of the USSR as one area that needs careful watching.

[Naumann] We try to share our mutual assessments on this situation in order to enable our respective governments to come to clear assessments what one should do for the future in order to prevent conflicts.

[Ben-'Ami] He sharply denied reports that German firms are helping countries in this region to develop chemical or nuclear weaponry.

[Naumann] If I had got any names and any precise indications, I told my Israeli partners that we will take action, but to say just in a more general way, we have rumors, that doesn't help us. So, before we start with general accusations, I would really ask those who try to play these games with Germany to be more specific and precise. Then we will take action.

[Ben-'Ami] As to the spread of neo-Nazism, Gen. Naumann said Germany's Armed Forces are making a determined effort to counter this among its ranks.

[Naumann] I can tell you right from the outset that I have learned about the first events on criticism towards foreigners in the German Armed Forces. Just a fortnight after I had taken office, I issued an order, you would say, that all commanders down to the company and battle level should educate their soldiers to stop this. [end recording]

Vatican Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

TA1911083792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The Vatican's deputy foreign minister, Monsignor Claudio Maria Celli, arrived in Israel yesterday and begins talks in Jerusalem today. It is the first official visit to Israel by a Vatican official of this rank and is seen as another step on the road to diplomatic relations. [passage omitted]

To Begin Talks on Normalization

TA1911115292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Within a few weeks, Israel and the Vatican will launch negotiations on normalizing relations between them. This was decided today in a meeting between a Vatican delegation and Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the agreements reached by teams of experts from the Vatican and Israel on the status of Catholicism in Israel and religious freedom were ratified. Instructions will be given to the team of experts to speed up the formulation of a document and to complete it by the start of 1993. Later, an Israeli delegation will leave for the Vatican to start negotiations on normalization. The deputy foreign minister proposed to the Vatican representatives that Jews and Christians act together against anti-Semitism. They will discuss the proposal in the Vatican.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 19 November carries a similar report, adding that Monsignor Claudio Maria Celli said "[a] visit by Pope John Paul II within a year is possible."]

Israeli, Vatican Teams Comment

TA1911201492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] The visit here of the Vatican delegation entails expectations. Today it concluded discussions with a team of the Foreign Ministry, headed by Deputy Minister Yossi Beilin, in a decision to expedite the establishment of ties between Israel and the Vatican. Our correspondent Gid'on Rezmir asked Deputy Minister Beilin whether this could be termed a breakthrough.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] It is hard to talk of a breakthrough. This is a prolonged process. In our meeting today we ratified the first part of the process, which means an agreement on part of a document of principles which we decided to call a fundamental agreement [last two words in English], due to their request. Based on this, we will start negotiating the details of normalization between us and the Vatican at the beginning of next year, I hope. In the meantime, we are dealing only with the principle, and we have so far agreed on about a third of the final document, on the level of experts. This was approved today after a relatively short discussion.

[Rezmir] Could you give us a general idea of what has already been agreed and what has not?

[Beilin] There are several principles, which on the face of them seem very simple and need no special discussion, such as freedom of religion, access to holy sites, and so on. Still, when you arrive at the discussions themselves, you find that every detail is meaningful to those who deal with and understand the issues thoroughly. As a result, the experts discuss issues of freedom of religion in Israel, our commitment to the prevailing status-quo, the situation in Jerusalem, and so on. Such are the issues on the agenda, and there are problems with them as well. That is why we have so far agreed only on a part of the document, and not all of it. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Israel Television in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 19 November carries a report on the same topic, which adds: "There still is a long way before normal and full relations between Israel and the Vatican are established, Monsignor Celli, Vatican deputy foreign minister, said this evening in Jerusalem at the conclusion of the meeting with the Israeli team."]

Hopes to Solve 'Many Problems'

AU2011113192 Rome ANSA in English 0842 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] (ANSA) Jerusalem, November 19—The permanent bilateral commission established by the Holy See and Israel in July to clear the way for the normalization of their relations concluded its first session here today with what the head of the Vatican delegation, Undersecretary of State Msgr. Claudio Maria Celli, said was a show of "the good will" of the Holy See and Israel to solve their problems.

Speaking at a press conference, Celli acknowledged that "there are many problems, many issues on the negotiating table. These are problems which must have solutions. I don't think that the way will be easy but I believe that both the Holy See and Israel have the good will to solve these problems."

On the prospect of opening diplomatic relations, the monsignor said the path to follow was still a long one.

The head of the Israeli side in the talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, reported that both delegations agreed to step up the pace of work in the hands of experts and said the pope's statements in condemnation of anti-Semitism "are for us encouraging and very important."

At the end of a two-hour meeting of the delegations in Foreign Ministry quarters, an official communique issued by the Foreign Ministry recalled that the senior-level bilateral commission was formed July 29 "for the purpose of studying and defining together issues of mutual interest in view of a normalization of relations."

Also reported was that the commission "noted with satisfaction the text jointly agreed to November 9, 1992, by the joint committee of experts and decided to approve its recommendations, to be included in a basic agreement the two sides might reach."

The official communique said the commission urged stepped up contacts between these experts and disclosed that the next meeting of the high-level commission will be held in the Vatican, probably at the beginning of next year.

After Israel, the Vatican delegation will travel on to Amman, Jordan, for meetings with government officials there before returning to the Vatican on November 22.

(On the eve of the meeting here, usually reliable Vatican sources said the delegation would also be meeting leading representatives of the Palestinians.

(Speaking in Rome, these sources said the delegation would be talking to Palestinian Arabs resident in Israel as well as the occupied territories.

(The Palestinian majority is Muslim, but there are also many Christians in the catholic and orthodox communities. They include the Latin rite Catholics who are led by Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem, the first Palestinian to hold the post. Then, these sources pointed out, there is Melkite Catholic Patriarch Maximos V. Haki, whose see is in Syria, but who has a deputy in Jerusalem. He is responsible for those who observe the Greco-Byzantine rite.)

Mitterrand To Visit, Says No Peace Without PLO

TA1911204592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] In an interview with the French Jewish radio station, President Francois Mitterrand has said that it is clear to him that there will be no peace in the Middle East without the PLO. According to him, many Israelis share his view. Mitterrand said that he is not familiar with any Palestinian organization which represents the Palestinians other than the PLO, and that this is the only organization enjoying the support of many Palestinians.

Our correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts reports that Mitterrand will be coming to Israel next week. During his visit he will have meetings with Palestinian representatives from the territories.

Wanted 'Terrorists' Escape to Egypt by Sea

TA2011081492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Terrorists who killed reservist Shmu'el Gevesh about a month ago escaped from the Gaza Strip to Egypt in a rubber boat. The terrorists belong to a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad that staged two armed attacks in Hebron last month. [A related report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 20 November says the fugitive Hamas members belonged to the Gaza Strip- based Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad."]

Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports that the squad is responsible for an attack south of Hebron in which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was seriously wounded and a female officer grazed. Five days later, the

squad murdered reservist Gereth near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. Hunted by the security forces, they fled to Gaza and then escaped to Egypt by sea.

Arab Gets Life for Attack on Policemen

TA1711080792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The Nablus military court has imposed a life sentence plus 15 years on 21-year-old Iyad Khamran from the al-Fari'ah refugee camp near Nablus. The court found him guilty of trying to stab to death two border policemen who were lightly wounded but managed to capture him.

Two petrol bombs were thrown last night at an Army patrol in the Ramallah area village of Nahalin. No one was injured and no damage was caused.

In the Samarian village of Yattah, two residents were wounded by gunfire during a family argument.

A soldier suffered medium injuries when a rock was thrown at his vehicle as he passed through the village of Madama near Nablus.

Some shots were fired at an Army truck at the 'Arrabah junction near Jenin, and in the Gaza Strip, shots were fired at an Army patrol in Rafah, close to the Egyptian border. Security forces searched the area using flares for illumination. Nobody was hit in the two shooting incidents.

Violence Continues in Territories

Bethlehem Woman Killed

TA1911082592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] A 22-year-old woman from Bethlehem was shot and killed last night while visiting relatives in a village near Ramallah. Family members brought her in critical condition to Asaf Harofe Hospital, where she died of her wounds. Large number of coastal plain area police have been searching the village to find the gunmen. The reason for the shooting is still unclear.

Six German tourists were hurt last night when an Arab-owned bus in which they were traveling was pelted with stones on the Ma'ale Adumim-Pisgat Ze'ev road. Three were admitted to Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital and the other three to Hadassah-'En Kerem.

Also last night, an Israeli car whose driver mistakenly entered Isawiyah village in East Jerusalem came under a stone attack. An ultra-Orthodox man traveling in the car was hurt by glass splinters and admitted himself to Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital.

16 Injured by Stone Throwing

TA1711113892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Sixteen people, including 13 children, have been injured in three stone-throwing incidents in East Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that a bus carrying children was pelted with stones near the Shu'fat refugee camp. Four children were slightly injured and taken to Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital.

Shortly afterward, another bus carrying children was pelted with stones near the al-Ram junction. Nine children were slightly injured, and they were taken to the same hospital.

In another incident, three tourists were slightly injured when the taxi they were driving in came under a hail of stones near the Mount of Olives.

A full commercial strike is being observed today in East Jerusalem, in mourning over the death of a local Arab who was killed yesterday when a grenade was thrown in the Old City.

2 Arab Murder Suspects Captured

TA2011054892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The security forces said they have captured two Palestinians in Rafah suspected of murdering a fellow Arab on the grounds that he collaborated with Israeli authorities. The two men were apprehended with a gun and a hand grenade in their possession.

Outside Rafah last night, shots were fired at an Army patrol. The soldiers returned the fire, and reinforcements were called in to help search the area. No one was hurt in the incident.

Near Nablus, the Army imposed a curfew last night on the 'Askar refugee camp, after a Molotov cocktail was hurled at an Israeli vehicle. The petrol bomb damaged the road, but no one was hurt.

Near Ramallah, an Israeli was lightly hurt from a glass fragment when her car was stoned.

Government Called on To Reconsider VOA Station

TA1811190892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The Knesset Internal Affairs Committee is casting doubt on the vital need to establish a VOA station in the 'Arava. The committee has called on the government to reconsider the project due to the geopolitical changes in the world. The Internal Affairs Committee is recommending that the government adopt quiet diplomacy to this end. The committee's position was unanimously adopted in conclusion of a debate attended by all elements involved in the establishment of the station. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that at the same time, the committee emphasized that it is aware of the agreement on the subject signed between Israel and the United States.

Dallul Calls Talk of Syrian Redeployment 'Treason'

NC2011113392 Shemayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Defense Minister Mohsin Dallul said the state does not recognize any weapon outside the framework of legitimacy. But, he added, we cannot prevent any Lebanese group from struggling against the occupation and we cannot guarantee the security of the occupier of our territories.

In a press interview published today, Dallul said that Israel is not aiming to stage a large military operation but wants to achieve political objectives so as to exert pressure on the Lebanese negotiators and undermine Lebanon's domestic situation by trying to benefit from the vacuum in the United States due to the transfer of power.

Dallul said he regards any talk today about the redeployment of Syrian forces as an act of treason, adding that there are dozens of problems that must be dealt with before this issue. Noting that Lebanon has not been informed about the lifting of the embargo on aid, he said that we will be facing a major crisis if [Prime Minister Rafiq] al-Hariri fails.

Dallul Rejects Israeli Proposal for Committee

JN1911153092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Defense Minister Mohsin Dallul in Beirut by Emile Haddad in Amman on 19 November—recorded]

[Text] [Haddad] Mr. Minister, Lebanon has rejected an Israeli proposal calling for the formation of a joint military committee to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon. What is your comment on this issue?

[Dallul] We agreed to engage ourselves in talks with Israel after we had exchanged letters with the cosponsors of the peace conference. In these letters, we affirmed that the talks will be exclusively confined to discussing Resolution 425, which provides for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, which has been occupied for a long time. We also said that we cannot hold negotiations outside this framework. Besides, the Lebanese Council of Ministers made a decision in this regard. Similarly, the Chamber of Deputies affirmed that what is permitted is to only hold talks or negotiations on Resolution 425, which requires Israel to evacuate from Lebanese territory. If the proposed military committee is meant to discuss a mechanism for withdrawal, then let Israel declare that this will be the committee's prime task. However, if the committee is meant to discuss security issues related to Israel, we would like to say that we are unwilling to serve as policemen protecting Israel's security in the border strip. That is, we are not willing to act as policemen serving those who are occupying our territory, as such a thing would be viewed as high treason. We are willing to discuss the evacuation of Israeli troops from our occupied territories. But, we are not willing to engage ourselves in other issues, because such acts would lead us into labyrinths; we are well aware that Israel wants to draw us into such dark labyrinths.

[Haddad] Mr. Minister, Israel is committing attacks on southern Lebanon on the pretext of retaliating for resistance operations. How does the Lebanese Government think these Israeli attacks can be avoided?

[Dallul] I would like to refer you to the statements made last weekend by [Israeli] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli military commanders, and the secretary general of the Israeli Labor Party. They all affirmed that it is the Israelis who started the latest upsurge of attacks. They added that the Katyusha attacks were most often in retaliation for Israeli acts. These are Israeli statements made by ministry officials and Israeli Army commanders. Hence, I would like to explain why the situation in southern Lebanon is as it is right now; that is, one marked by shelling, tension, casualties, etcetera. The answer lies in the fact that Israel is occupying Lebanese territory. Why should we complicate matters? We, the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese Army, are willing to guarantee that there will be no single military operation targeting Israel in the future if it withdraws its troops from southern Lebanon. But, if it chooses to stay in our territory, we cannot prevent anybody from confronting the occupation troops. This is the normal practice deemed logical and acceptable by all world states. If Israel is worried about the security situation in the border strip, then let it withdraw from there. We will then guarantee that there will be no single operation targeting it if it evacuates from our territory.

Fighting Continues in South

Attacks on SLA

NC1911204392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Resistance men today carried out four attacks against the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. According to security sources, two SLA personnel were wounded when resistance men fired on their civilian car near Jazzin.

Our correspondent in the south reports that the resistance detonated an explosive charge on Dayr Siryan Road this afternoon. Earlier today, SLA personnel came under fire near Shaqra, on the fringes of the border strip. No one was hurt in these two attacks. The fourth attack targeted an SLA post in Sujud, and the SLA retaliated by firing artillery guns in the direction of the attackers.

'Heavy' Israeli Shelling

NC2011082592 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Reports have said that the areas and villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah came under heavy shelling last night from the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and the Israeli Army's artillery.

The shelling was in retaliation for a number of terrorist actions yesterday against the SLA positions in the eastern sector and in the Jezzin area. Two soldiers were injured—one slightly—in these attacks.

[Paris AFP in English at 2334 GMT on 19 November adds the following: "The SLA's radio, confirming the report [on attacks against the SLA positions], said the gunfire came from areas controlled by Shiite Muslim militants of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah, but Hizbullah officials told AFP it was not responsible for the attack."]

Israeli Helicopter Attack

NC1911190792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Hizbullah has said that two Israeli helicopters strafed the party's positions in southern al-Biqa', without causing any casualties. Hizbullah said the two helicopters used heavy-caliber machine guns to attack its posts in Birkat Jubbur and Jabal Abu Rashid at 1500 today. Lebanese police, however, have not confirmed the attack. Hizbullah added that its air defense batteries responded to the two Israeli helicopters but did not hit them.

Five 155-mm shells fired from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffiwah landed on the Milita and al-Luwayzah hills in Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1550 today. The villages of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Jarju', and 'Ayn Bu Siwar came under shelling this afternoon. A shell landed in the army barracks in al-Nabatiyah at 1650 today. Shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah hills, particularly Milita and al-Luwayzah hills, resumed at 1730 today. The shelling also targeted Jarju' village, where houses suffered damage. A fire broke out in Jarju' woods, destroying a number of olive trees.

Security sources in the south say that yesterday Israel completed the withdrawal of all artillery pieces with which it had reinforced the western sector of the border strip. The sources added, however, that Israel brought in some reinforcements for its artillery batteries near Marj 'Uyun yesterday and installed 21 additional artillery guns.

Afghanistan

3 Wounded, Ministry Damaged in Kabul Bombing

LD1911192892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] A bomb explosion shook the Afghan Defense Ministry building in Kabul. An Afghan Defense Ministry source, confirming the report in an interview with Iranian reporters in Kabul, said: Three people were wounded and the Ministry building sustained some damage as a result of the explosion this morning. The perpetrators of this bombing attempt have not yet been identified, but a wide-ranging investigation into the incident has begun.

According to our correspondent's report from Kabul, areas east of Kabul were being strafed this afternoon. These areas have been under artillery fire by Hekmatyar's party.

Attributed to 'Internal Differences'

LD2011112092 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Yesterday morning a serious explosion rocked the building of the Defense Ministry of the coalition administration. The correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports from Kabul city that the explosion occurred yesterday morning around 0900. It took place on the first floor of the Ministry's building, killing two people and injuring another seven. As a result the Defense Ministry building sustained serious damage.

It is said that this explosion is the result of internal differences between members of the coalition administration which have been going on for some time.

Mas'ud Trying To Reopen Bagram Airbase

LD2011121892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Our correspondent reports from Kabul that following the martyrdom of Commander Mirways, deputy commander of Bagram airbase garrison, in an ambush carried out by men attached to the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar; council formed by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, currently defense minister] Ahmad Shah Mas'ud is trying to reopen Bagram airbase.

Mirways, who was one of the commanders attached to the Islamic Union [Ettehad-e Eslami], left his base on Tuesday for Jabal al-Seraj, to take part in a meeting at the invitation of the Supervisory Council. While returning from this meeting he and his men were attacked in the region of Shegal located in the vicinity of Bagram airbase, as result of which he was martyred. It should be pointed out that Commander Mirways had refused to let the Supervisory Council and militias use this airbase and the airbase was closed to their aircraft. After the loss of Commander Mirways, Mas'ud is now trying to reopen this airbase.

In another development, our correspondent reports from Kapisa Province that the men attached to the Supervisory Council, supported by communists and militiamen, launched a thievish attack once again yesterday at 1500 against the positions of the Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] in Dehbala region, Kapisa Province. This attack was repulsed with crushing blows inflicted by our heroic and faithful mujahedin. Despite the fact that the opposite side made extensive use of heavy and light weapons during this treacherous attack, they encountered a shameful defeat.

Momen, Kayani Forces Clash on Salang Highway

LD1311151392 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 13 November 92

[Text] Several people were killed or injured during an armed clash that flared up along the northern section of the Salang Highway between men attached to General Momen and Kayani's forces. The correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports from Baghlan Province that the fierce armed clash flared up on Tuesday morning along the northern section of the Salang Highway between the men attached to General Momen and Kayani. One of the aides of General Momen was captured and several others were killed or injured. General Momen, who was present at the time of fighting, then escaped [words indistinct].

Differences between the militia groups and communists and other members of the coalition administration are being further exacerbated and are becoming very serious. The report adds that the situation along the Salang Highway is extremely unpleasant.

Meanwhile, violations of the honor of Kabul's persecuted citizens by the savage militias are still continuing. The correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports from Kabul city that the savage Gelamjam militias [derogatory reference to General Dostam's Uzbek militia] who have a major role in the coalition administration of Kabul are still continuing their violation against the honor of the persecuted citizens of Kabul. For example a few days ago the savage Dostam militias seized an individual who was living in the vicinity of Tapa-ye Maranjan [hill on the eastern side of Kabul] and forcibly took him to their base on the top of the hill. In violating his [words indistinct]] then killed him. The body of this innocent man was brought down the hill the next day.

This is not the first time that such a painful mishap has taken place, as such things have happened many times. However, there is no authority or place in Kabul where the people can pass on their complaints and solve their problems.

Gilani Announces Candidacy for President

LD1911091692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, leader of Afghanistan's National Front Party [Mahaz-e Eslami], today formally announced that he was ready to stand as a candidate for the position of future president of Afghanistan.

He told reporters of the Islamic Republic Voice and Vision [Iranian radio and television], as well as the correspondent of the Islamic Republic News Agency in Kabul, that his candidacy for the presidency of Afghanistan was purely within the framework of a brotherly competition with Burhanuddin Rabbani and other likely candidates for that position.

Gilani is at present a member of the Leadership Council of Afghanistan.

Security Commission Attends Leadership Council

LD1911092492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The session of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, chaired by esteemed Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the council, was held today at Gulkhana Palace—headquarters of the Presidency. Esteemed Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni, secretary and spokesman of the Leadership Council, said to the BIA correspondent: [Announcement] At today's session of the Leadership Council talks were held on various subjects. The Kabul Security Commission also took part in today's session at the Council's invitation; members of the commission expressed their views regarding the buffer forces, the results of their talks with the belligerent parties and conclusion drawn from their visit. The delegation in charge of clearing Kabul of irresponsible armed forces, took part in the afternoon session of this council and they explained difficulties facing them in confronting various armed men. They asked the Leadership Council to guide them on this issue. At this session, which is still in progress, a detailed discussion was held regarding preparation for convening the session of the Ahl-e Hal Wa Aqd Shura. Talks were then held on various issues upon which decisions will be made.

Rabbani Chairs Leadership Council 12 Nov

LD1311102792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The session of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, chaired by esteemed professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of this Council, was held this afternoon at Gulkhana Palace—the headquarters of the Presidency.

Esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Jawid, acting secretary and spokesman of the Leadership Council, said to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent: At today's session of the Leadership Council talks were held on the country's important current situation including difficulties (confronted) esteemed Mowlawi Nasrullah Mansur, governor of Paktia and chairman of the Peace Council of the Southern Regions.

At the end of today's session the Leadership Council received a large number of the country's ulema and listened to their proposals regarding the convocation of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council [Ahl-e Hal Wa 'Aqd Shura] and then held discussion concerning their proposals.

Economic Protocol Signed With Germany

LD1311221592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Esteemed Seyyed Sulayman Gilani, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, met this morning in his office with a delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany. During the meeting talks were conducted on friendly relations between the two countries and German assistance in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Dr. Jalil Shams, minister adviser and deputy minister of foreign affairs, was also present.

The German delegation expressed the readiness of its country for economic and technical assistance in the spheres of house reconstruction, the repair of electricity generating stations, roads, and bridges, building drinking water stations, and the provision of agricultural tractors.

Similarly a protocol on economic cooperation was signed this afternoon by the German delegation and Afghan authorities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On the Afghan side the protocol was signed by Dr. Jalil Shams, minister adviser and deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Sultan Hosayn, deputy minister of planning, and from the German side by Gerhard Preis, head of the delegation.

India

Rao Receives Visiting U.S. Senators

BK1811043092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] India is willing to discuss the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan put forward in 1988, or part of it, or any other plan which can lead to global disarmament. This was conveyed by the prime minister to the visiting U.S. Senators, Paul Simon, Mr. Howard Metzenbaum, who called on him in New Delhi yesterday. In his response, Mr. Metzenbaum said he is confident that Mr. Narasimha Rao, as the leader of the world's largest democracy, can lead the world toward nuclear disarmament.

The delegation also met the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar;

and the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan. The home minister apprised them of Pakistan's continuing abetment of terrorism against India.

Delhi Reports Talks With U.S. on Nuclear Issue

BK1311074292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Representatives of India and the United States held two rounds of discussions yesterday in Washington on the nuclear nonproliferation issue. The two sides will continue the talks today. The Indian delegation is led by additional secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. C. Dasgupta. These talks are a part on the ongoing dialogue that was set in motion, following a decision taken at a meeting between the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and President Bush in February. The Indian delegation is likely to make initial contact with the officials in the Clinton transition team dealing with nuclear nonproliferation.

Effects of Clinton on Indo-U.S. Ties Viewed

BK1811111992 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 8 Nov 92 p 9

[From the "Spotlight" section: "Indo-US Relations—Will this man fit the Bill?"]

[Text] Conventional wisdom dictates that a Democrat in the White House is good news for India. Just how good President-elect Bill Clinton will be depends largely on the skill with which India plays the few trumps it holds over the next four years.

Ironically, despite India's traditional friendship with Democrats on a political plane, its relationship with Democrat Presidents in the past has been somewhat uneasy. The euphoria over John Kennedy's [JFK] support to India during the brushing Sino-Indo War of 1962 rapidly gave way to disillusionment as the JFK Administration failed to live up to the expectations generated here in terms of military and economic assistance. The textile quotas imposed under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement piloted by Kennedy made matters worse. And then came the Indo-Pak War of 1965 and the Johnson Government perforce sided with Pakistan, with which it had a defence pact signed in 1959. The ascent of Jimmy Carter, another Democrat, to the Presidency in 1976 aroused hopes again. And indeed, he became the first US president to visit India only to sour things by his controversial aside to an aide at a public gathering (with the microphones on) to rap India on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT].

In fact, the pressure on India to sign the NPT was perhaps the most acute under Carter.

Will relations with the Clinton Administration go the same way? It is true that there is every likelihood of the current pressures on India actually increasing under a Democrat Government, particularly in three sensitive areas—nuclear nonproliferation, human rights and trade-related issues, specifically intellectual property rights. With the Democrats' avowed liberal and protectionist tendencies, these are going to be important concerns for the new policy makers.

Although Clinton himself is said to be a centrist, he is expected to usher in an activist government. The initial impact may be on the domestic front but as he gets involved in international affairs, the same philosophy could colour his foreign policy. He may also find it difficult to keep down his more radical mates in the party who have decidedly outspoken views on the key pressure points in Indo-US relations. It was the Democrats, for instance, who pushed through the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 which introduced the hated Section 301 clause.

A senior analyst, Bhabani Sen Gupta, maintains that the increased US concern on non-proliferation and human rights under Clinton could build pressures not only on the bilateral front, but also on the multilateral front.

The key difference this time however, is India's own attitude. Unlike the heady excitement aroused by Democrat victories in the past, there appear to be few expectations from Clinton. The end of the Cold War and the disappearance of the Soviet Union has brought India down with a bump and today, there seems to be a more realistic appraisal of US motives and India's own vulnerability.

While a pessimistic approach may save one from disappointment, the present situation is not without advantages, and it is up to South Block to exploit them as skillfully as it can. As the former Indian Ambassador to the US, Mr. Abid Hussain, pointed out, "Of course they will push us harder. We must harness our strengths and play our cards with skill."

And India does have several cards to play. For one, some of its best friends on Capitol Hill, the political nerve centre in Washington D.C., have been Democrat Senators and Congressmen. In the five recorded votes since 1989 in the US Congress on India-related bills, including the Pressler Amendment seeking to deny aid to India because of a suspected nuclear capability, the Democrats have voted overwhelmingly in support of India. Some of them are expected to move into influential positions in the new Administration and while state responsibilities generate a different set of compulsions, friendly faces in the government is an advantage a lot of other countries do not have.

The liberal, somewhat idealistic positions adopted by the Democrats have also made them great admirers of India's democratic system. To an Administration committed to reinforcing democracy throughout the world ("My Administration will stand up for democracy," Mr Clinton declared in his address to the L.A. World Affairs Council during his campaign), India's 40-year old parliamentary system and history of free elections must surely invite a degree of empathy and understanding.

Although the Democrats' avowed stand on democracy has in the past been rather cosmetic, there is no reason why the rhetoric should not be turned to India's advantage. In this context, the Clinton Administration's relationship with Pakistan will be crucial. Although the Bush Administration was striving to maintain a balance between India and Pakistan, Mr. Clinton's strident criticism of non-democratic nations and international traffic in terrorism could widen the chasm that has developed between Islamabad and Washington.

Significantly, the US Ambassador to India, Mr. Thomas Pickering, included democracy in Pakistan as one of the key focal issues in this region for the new government. Any tension in US relations with Pakistan can only mean an upswing in Indo-US ties.

Similarly, US ties with China will also play a vital role in determining how Mr. Clinton views India. China was one of the countries the Democrat President-elect criticised by name during his election campaign. "We will link China's trading privileges to its human rights record and its conduct on trade and weapons sales," he told the L.A. World Affairs Council. While analysts feel the responsibilities of governance will constrain him from implementing his threats, they nevertheless predict growing tension between the two nations.

The overlap of geopolitical and strategic interests, particularly after the Cold War ended, drew India and the US closer together. There is nothing to suggest that these interests will no longer coincide just because the occupant of the Oval Office in the White House has changed. The continuing western fear of Islamic fundamentalism, the anxiety over uncontrolled weapons proliferation, both nuclear and chemical, in Central and South Asia and in the Middle East and the shift of US military interests from the Pacific to the Gulf are all realities which will exist.

How much India is able to make use of its advantages for bilateral benefits from the US depends on how quickly South Block moves to zero in on them. It needs aggressive diplomacy. The last traces of cobwebs left behind by the Cold War need to be brushed away. As both Mr. Clinton and his running mate Al Gore, emphasised in their acceptance speeches, their victory represents a generational change in the US. Both were born in a post World War II US and bred on the anti-war peace movement which swept the country in the sixties. India must realise the potentialities of the mood that is likely to develop in the US under their leadership and tailor its responses to Washington. More importantly, the Narasimha Rao Government has to handle the situation at home with consummate skill. After all, one ugly incident involving security forces in Kashmir could upturn things in a flash.

Tehran Reports Memo of Understanding

LD1211180192 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Hyderabad, Nov. 11, IRNA—'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, today signed a memorandum of understanding with India for cooperation in political, economic and cultural areas concluding the sixth Indo-Iran joint commission's meeting. The Iranian foreign minister is leading a high level delegation to India.

The memorandum of understanding also includes cooperation in agricultural research, transportation, shipping, communications, railways and at academic levels in the institutes of mathematics and physics.

Velayati arrived here from New Delhi this afternoon where he was received by the state officials, prominent Muslim leaders and the Iranian residents of the city. He was seen off at New Delhi airport by the Indian State Minister for External Affairs, R.L. Bhatia.

The Iranian foreign minister, inaugurated the Iran Culture Week in the Deccan city of Hyderabad—the capital of South Indian State Andhra Pradesh.

In his inaugural address at the culture week, where the Andhra Pradesh chief minister was also present, Velayati emphasised on the ancient ties of the two countries and stated that the two were inseparable. He looked forward to holding an Indian Culture Week in Iran in future.

Bhaskar Reddy, the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh while welcoming the dignitary, observed that the city of Hyderabad was founded by an Iranian architect, Qutbuddin.

Velayati and the chief minister later visited an exhibition of calligraphy, photographs and miniatures organised by the Iranian Cultural Centre in Hyderabad. Velayati distributed awards to students of the Imam Reza (peace be upon him) Foundation of Hyderabad.

Iran Seeks Indian Help on Defence

BK1811103392 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Nov 92 p 12

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] New Delhi—Iran has sought India's assistance in building up its defence infrastructure, according to sources.

The areas include medium technology transfers, maintenance and upgrading of communications and weapon facilities, purchase of T-72 tanks, spares assistance and military training.

While Teheran has been sending feelers for defence tie-ups since past one year, it is recently that Iran has embarked on concrete proposals for probable defence cooperation. Requests for Iranian requirements have

been made both at the political and official levels—the ideal for being the Indo-Iranian joint economic commission meets.

Against this backdrop, similar Iranian requests by foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who is here for the sixth round of the joint economic commission meeting, are not ruled out.

Iran, which is expected to spend $50 billion on its defence over the next five years, is reported to have singled out an estimated $15 billion for the current year for expanding its arms industry, purchasing new sophisticated equipment, and developing its nuclear capabilities. It is reported to have already acquired 25 SU-24 bombers, 50 MIG-29, a number of MIG-31 and SU-27s, 200 T-72 main battle tanks and three Kilo class submarines from former Soviet Union.

Its armament purchases from China are estimated at $ 5 billion during the past three years. Equipment has also been procured from Pakistan North Korea, Argentina, Brazil, Taiwan and Germany. Notwithstanding, an arms embargo (Iran is officially labelled a terrorist state), sales of high-tech equipment worth $300 million was approved for Teheran by the U.S. Commerce Department in August 1991.

While a large quantity of arms have been purchased from diverse sources, Iran maintains that a strong defence production and maintenance base is essential to complement its foreign procurement programme and make it self-sufficient. This was sought by Iran through the 1989 defence and economic agreement with the then Soviet Union and bilateral agreements with Czechoslovakia, Romania, East Germany and Poland, to assist in the setting up of factories to produce armoured vehicles, anti-tank weapons and other systems.

With uncertainty looming large over the future of the erstwhile socialist states, Teheran's attention has naturally turned towards Delhi for seeking similar assistance. Besides having a viable defence production base, India is also the largest holder of former Soviet equipment outside the erstwhile communist bloc.

For this reason, Teheran is anxious for defence infrastructural assistance from India. The areas sought are varied ranging from the establishment of static national communication grids like the ASCON [expansion unknown] systems, mobile operational and tactical ARIEN [expansion unknown] systems, to technicians and military instructors for converting a still motley Iranian army into a professional force. It may be pointed out that the Islamic Revolutionary Guards corps is being amalgamated with the regular Iranian army.

The Indian response to repeated Iranian requests has, so far, been lukewarm. While a powerful section of the services headquarters is in favour of Teheran's proposal, the Government is undecided.

Several presentations by the section inclined to assisting Teheran, have argued that the opportunity available to wean away Teheran from Islamabad shouldn't be lost. Contrary to popular perceptions, Pak-Iran nexus is fragile. The much talked about railway line from Quetta to Iran is nowhere near completion. The national highway linking Pakistan-Iran-Turkey has met a similar fate. Notwithstanding ostensible warm relations between Teheran and Islamabad, Pakistan has over 43,000 Frontier Constabulary forces on the Iranian border and the Shia-Sunni divide cannot be wished away by both countries.

Moreover, Pakistan with its frugal defence industrial base is only self-sufficient in small arms.

While the argument that over a period of time, Iran, through large scale assistance, can be made dependent on India, is spurious as gestation periods for such situations to occur are usually very long. The Government reservations for defence cooperation with Iran are primarily because of two reasons.

Firstly, there is an ever present fear that military equipment and doctrines borne out of the suggested cooperation, may fall in Pakistani hands. And more importantly, it is uncertain as to how the US would react to such defence assistance by India, to a country which Washington considers inimical.

The US has already opposed Indian sale of a 10 mw [megawatt] nuclear research reactor to Iran.

Commentary Views Growing Ties With Iran

BK1511113292 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Commentary by Editor Samuel Ved of UNI, United News of India]

[Text] The sixth Indo-Iranian Joint Commission meeting, which ended in New Delhi earlier this week, has once again, among other things, indicated clearly that in the post-Khomeini era, Teheran wants to give itself an image of a progressive and economically and militarily strong country. Simultaneously, it wants to remove the impression that it is a backward-looking, Muslim fundamentalist country.

The sixth Joint Commission meeting as also the fifth one held in Teheran last year indicated the extent of cooperation in almost all fields—economic, trade, commerce, science, education, agriculture, culture, and defense—that Iran wants to have with secular India. It shows that country's uninhibited approach to foreign relations in national interest. At the end of the sixth meeting in New Delhi, the foreign ministers of the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on enhanced economic cooperation. During the meeting, the Iranian side reportedly sought defense infrastructural assistance from India.

Also, and that is very significant given Iran's Islamic credentials, Iran's foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who led his country's team at the sixth meeting, went to Hyderabad to inaugurate an Iranian cultural week. There he described India and Iran as two great nations who once shared a common religion, language, and culture. He said Iranian Muslims were among the first to research into the beliefs and religion of Hinduism and that it was the Persian translation of Upanishad [ancient book of Hindu philosophy] that introduced Hindu culture and literature to the West. He invited India to hold a similar cultural festival in Iran. Dr. Velayati's statement on common Indo-Iranian cultural heritage establishes the fact that the present Iranian leadership does not intend to make the country's religious ideology the sole touchstone of its foreign relations. The close all-round relationship that promises to emerge in the near future between the two countries is hardly sustainable in Iran's relations with any Muslim country.

The extent of Iranian openness toward India was exhibited last August by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani when he offered to give India transit facilities through Iran's soil for trade with Central Asian countries. At the sixth joint meeting, India made a formal request for that facility. Broadly speaking, the national interests of the two countries do not clash anyway. On the contrary, they hold identical views on many international issues. That fact is a certainly a major contributory factor to the good Indo-Iran relations.

But, one thing which disappoints the common man in India is Iran's support to Pakistan's line about the reality of Kashmir. The common man feels sorry that without examining the issue, the Iranian leaders support Pakistan on Kashmir just because of the common Islamic factor, ignoring the fact that India has never harmed Iran's interest. In India, there is only love and respect for that country. However, this feeling in India may not be very correct. For example, last September when President Rafsanjani visited Pakistan, many people there were disappointed, because, in his very long address to the joint session of Parliament, he only briefly referred to the UN Resolutions on Kashmir and avoided any criticism on India. On the other hand, his long speech was devoted to attacking the Pakistan's support to the Afghan rebels who were marring the chances of peace in Afghanistan. Next day, when he went to Lahore, newspapermen again asked him about his views on Kashmir. But Mr. Rafsanjani snubbed them by saying that he had already made his views clear in Parliament the day before. Iran is well aware that what support India with its trained manpower and all-round development can give in its plan to become an economically-strong country, perhaps, no other country can. And India is also aware that Iran can play a big role in its economic endeavour.

Joint Ventures With Iran Called 'Realistic'

BK1911090192 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 13 Nov 92 p 4

[Editorial: "India-Iran Ties"]

[Text] The outcome of the India-Iranian Joint Commission's meeting could be considered as very useful for New Delhi. Iran has not only agreed to award a $600 million thermal power station contract to India, it is in position to award two other contracts worth $250 million to India as well. Moreover, Iran has proposed establishing joint ventures with India in the Central Asian Muslim Republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union. Iran wants to have the maximum share of the newly independent Central Asian Republics trade because of its common border with them. Iran would not like a bit to see that its traditional adversaries—the United States and Israel—carve out a sphere of influence in Central Asia. That is why its proposal for establishing joint ventures with India is realistic.

The United States and other Western capitalist countries already have influence in the Gulf region. Russia is caught in its own crisis, and China's presence in the region is not beneficial to Iran. Iran can purchase arms from China—which it has been doing—but it does not want Beijing as its foreign trade partner. That is why Iran's dependence on India is natural as well as logical. Our trade with Iran has so far been in that country's favor. India buys crude oil and petroleum products from Iran worth many times more than whatever it imports from us.

However, putting aside the trade links with Iran, our relations have not improved to the desired extent despite our goodwill. Iran has been unhelpful because of its recent expression of support for the so-called plebiscite in Kashmir. We were neutral in the Iran-Iraq war. Khomeyni's extremist revolution was against the democratic values, but we did not anger Iran, and, even sided with it in the Salman Rushdie debate. After Khomeyni's death, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, realizing the situation, gave up animosity toward the West and started inviting other countries, including those in the West, to rebuild his country's war-shattered economy. In this context, India's increased trade with Iran is not surprising. What is surprising is that the Shi'ite-majority in Iran speaks in favor of Sunni-majority Pakistan. It appears that Iran adopts pro-Pakistan and pro-Afghanistan postures to make its borders safe.

The conclusion is that we should try to increase our trade with Iran, putting to our side Iran's support for a plebiscite in Kashmir. Once the economic interests get priority, Iran will stop harping on its Kashmir theme.

Rao Calls for Expansion of UN Security Council

BK1311155292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] The prime minister has called for expansion of the UN Security Council to democratize it further and make it more strong. Inaugurating the 15th All India Public Relations Conference in New Delhi today today, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said that the world body must be made responsive to the needs of the developing countries. He said India has always pleaded for the countries

of the Third World and fostered a dialogue between the North and the South for ensuring better cooperation.

UN Nuclear Free South Asia Resolution Opposed

BK1311075592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] India has again made it clear its stand that nuclear disarmament is a global issue and cannot be resolved by establishing nuclear weapon-free zones. Opposing a resolution in the UN General Assembly Political and Security Committee calling for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia, the Indian ambassador, Mr. Satish Chandra, said partial measures cannot achieve the goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

Despite strong Indian opposition, the Pakistani-moved resolution was approved by the committee by 117 votes. Only India and Bhutan opposed the resolution, while 12 members abstained from voting. The resolution was co-sponsored by Bangladesh. The committee also approved a resolution on holding a conference in 1995 to review the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

More for Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones Criticized

BK1611072992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Defense Analyst Ravindra Pal Singh Commentary]

[Text] The United Nations resolution on establishing the South Asian nuclear weapon-free zone is part of the larger United States-led strategy to contain nuclear proliferation. At the global level, nuclear-free zones are being pursued in those regions in countries having nuclear capability which have not gone overtly nuclear. For example, the regional agreement for making South America free of nuclear weapons through the instrument of the (Tlatelolco) Treaty. It has contained the nuclear capabilities of Brazil and Argentina. The nuclear weapon-free zones are not being attempted in the regions where the United States has strategic interests like the Mediterranean or West Asia nuclear-free zones which will include Israel. Consequently, the nuclear weapon-free zone is based only on the development criteria. It does not include the criterion of either nuclear weapons deployment or their deliverability.

How can any zone be free of nuclear weapons if the major powers are allowed to deploy nuclear weapons in that region. For example, the Chinese nuclear-tipped missiles in Tibet and nuclear weapons aboard the United States ships in the Indian Ocean region. And how can South Asia be a nuclear-free zone if nuclear weapons in the arsenals of major powers can target any location in South Asia. The Pakistani proposal has its inspiration from its reactive policy to India's nuclear capability. Last year, Pakistan had proposed a five-nation conference to evolve a South Asian nonproliferation regime which aimed at containing the nuclear capacities of only Pakistan and India. As South Asian security concerns are [word indistinct] by the Chinese military potential, it is not clear how can the South Asian nuclear-free zone develop without the Chinese renunciating their nuclear capability.

An additional concern for India is the possibility of the nuclear technology and intellectual resources being clandestinely leaked out of the erstwhile Soviet republics. The Pakistani nuclear program was developed behind a smokescreen of denials by its leaders by covertly transferring nuclear components and technologies from West European countries, Canada and the United States. A confirmation of freezing of a nuclear weapons program is only feasible through a highly intrusive verification regime. There is no certainty that Pakistan will give up its capability which it has acquired through clandestine channels in the first place. Unless the United Nations moves toward nuclear disarmament and creates structures for intrusive verification in an equitable manner, it will become an instrument for stratification of power between the nuclear-haves and the rest of the world.

Army Aviation, Service Rivalries Viewed

BK1811105992 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 9 Nov 92 p 8

[By Manvendra Singh]

[Text] Organizations of the State have a tendency to complain, behaving as though matters are not within their control. Making others believe that they are innocent of all shortcomings, because the decisions are never taken by them. The Indian Army, as one such organization, also suffers from this problem. Its protestations that the Army Aviation Corps (AAC) has not come into fruition as it went against the interests of the Indian Air Force (IAF), and also that the Cabinet Committee for Political Affairs (CCPA) is yet to finally decide on the matter, is an example of such posturing.

The first shot against the AAC was certainly fired by the IAF, for it would in effect dilute the IAF's monopoly over rotary wing aircraft. This is an outcome, primarily of inter-service rivalry, and secondly, a desire to preserve a veritable "fiefdom." A great degree of mutual mistrust exists between the services. What is disturbing, however, is that this is palpable even within the service. And the limited growth of the AAC is a consequence of internal rivalries.

In the Army, the main contenders for a piece of the AAC are the three combat arms—infantry, artillery, and the armoured corps. The skeletal AAC that does exist, thus far, is largely under that control of the Regiment of Artillery. This fraction is extremely important to render service, such as in the role of air observation posts (AOPs). Beyond that, however, there has been no development, and a major part of the fault lies with Army Headquarters itself.

The Indian Army has its own "caste" system. Unlike the practiced social version, this one does not have a permanency to it, but is dependent on the prevailing power relationship within the Army hierarchy. The "castes" are the various arms, and if a particular arm is in the ascendant, its interests will have greater chances of meeting with success. Obviously at the cost of the other arms no matter what the urgency of their requirements. Therefore, if the AAC development has been only until the stage of AOPs it is because the prevailing power structure favours the arm that employs them.

The IAF struck the first blow against the AAC when it suggested that Army also provide the complete logistical and infrastructural back-up to maintain the AAC. It simply meant that if the Army wanted an AAC it had to go it all alone. Without the experience, or the resources, the Army baulked at the idea, and subsequently, the idea shrank into what the AAC is today. In the limited development of the AAC, and that entirely at the whims of the Army leadership, two fundamental requirements for having a committed Army aviation capability, attack and assault helicopters, have been ignored.

Attack helicopters, one of the undeniable successes of the Gulf War, are merely the latest mechanical evolution of the horse. As mobile warfare becomes the fulcrum of combat, an extension of the fast-moving unit is the faster flying armed attack helicopter. It has an anti-tank role, primarily, and secondly, a limited ground attack and anti-air potential. Logically, therefore, every armoured formation should also have a committed attack helicopter squadron. Similarly, the Parachute Brigade, or the future Army Special Forces Regiment, must have a complement of fixed and rotary winged aircraft as an inherent part of the formation. They are potentially force multipliers, and must have the tools to make them fully so.

The Army has trained officers to handle a variety of helicopters, but it has not put them to use. If it wanted to do so, the Army could employ them fully, but that would entail sharing limited resources. Given the current condition of higher command, this is too much to expect of them.

Iran

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani Notes Disputes With Arabs in Sermon

LD3011114992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The Tehran Friday prayers were held today under the leadership of Ayatollah Emami-Kashani. In his second sermon, the acting Tehran Friday prayer imam reviewed the main political events linked to the world of Islam. He then said that the main reason for recent developments in the Islamic countries is the fact that humanity today has been disappointed with materialistic and arrogant schools of thought and has had to turn once again to divine schools.

Referring to the remarks by some Arab rulers who attributed these movements to the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: What has Iran got to do with the people's uprising against you? Islamic movements in Egypt, Algeria, and other points spring from within these nations. It is a baseless and crude move to relate them physically to Iran. You will not benefit by such remarks. Seek out the roots of problems within yourselves. If you want to be dear to your nations then join them.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani also strongly reproached the member-states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] because of their hostile positions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Addressing them he said: You are the ones who place valuable riches of your nations at the disposal of the arrogant powers and adopt such hostile positions against Islamic Iran—the greatest protector of Muslim nations of the world. So you must know that the brave Iranian nation attaches no importance to such illogical positions. Our nation will not give up even a handful of its territory.

Referring to the problem of northern Iraq, he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that Iraq's disintegration is detrimental to the interests of the Iraqi nation and the region. In any case, Iran opposes it. He also said that giving the Serbs a free hand to slaughter the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina is yet more evidence of the crimes committed by the great powers. He added: The UN Security Council has, meanwhile, become an accomplice to these horrible crimes.

In another part of his remarks, on the occasion of Basij week, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani talked about the role which the self-sacrificing Basijis play in preserving the values of the Islamic revolution. He then urged officials throughout the country to make every effort to remove people's difficulties.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani devoted his first sermon to a discourse on the methods and importance of enjoining virtue and prohibiting vice. He said the correct application of that duty is an efficient tool in attaining perfection and happiness.

Religious-political Friday prayer ceremonies were held in other areas of Islamic Iran with the massive presence of prayer goers.

Commentary Views 7th Round of Peace Talks

LD1911220892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1939 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, leader of the Palestinian negotiators at the Middle East peace talks, while describing as amicable the Israeli team's response to the Palestinian team, has said: The response given by the Israelis to the Palestinian team will never lead to peace.

The leader of the Palestinian team made these comments at the conclusion of the last phase of this team's talks with the Israeli delegation in the 7th round of the so-called Middle East peace talks.

The 7th round of these talks is scheduled to conclude in Washington today, Thursday. This is at a time when the 8th round of the so-called peace talks has been set by the United States in Washington from 7 to 17 of December.

The Zionist regime yesterday announced in its agreement to attend the next round of the talks. The time for the new round of talks has been set under the conditions when political experts and circles close to the talks have assessed the 7th round of the so-called peace talks as unsuccessful, similar to the earlier rounds.

The 7th round of the so-called Middle East peace talks had begun under the circumstances when the U.S. presidential elections propaganda clamor was covering its peak. In this connection among the propaganda issues to which the two rough rivals, George Bush and Bill Clinton, resorted to in their polls in order to take lead and to secure more votes, mentions can be made of the greater attention to Israel and endeavor to secure the votes of the American Jews.

This support, which in the initial stage was described by Clinton as a mere propaganda gesture, has continued unlimited even after his victory in the presidential elections.

In his recent comments on the Middle East peace issues, Clinton explicitly declared that the Arabs should extend more concessions to Israel. Even though certain experts deem as somewhat premature any prediction on the U.S. President elect's inclinations concerning the U.S. foreign policy, the issue which has constantly remained unchanged regarding the Middle East peace and the Arab-Israeli conflict is the United State's deep interest in the Zionist regime and also the viewpoint which exists concerning the Tel Aviv regime's status in America's regional equations in the Middle East.

This matter has been duly considered in all the peace plans and initiatives set forth by America so far. On this basis, the so-called Middle East peace talks and the negotiations between the Arabs and the Zionist regime, which in general opened in Madrid last year, are solely pursuing the U.S. plan, which aims at legitimizing the Zionist regime and bringing it into the regional equations in a legal framework.

Hence the events which have occurred in the talks process during the past one year denote two completely different postures by the negotiating sides. One posture is that of the negotiators from the Arab states whose presence will entail the grant of more concessions without themselves securing the minimum of them. And eventually they will have no option but to induce the issue of compromise to their own nations.

And the other posture related to the Zionist regime, which while sustaining the least losses, continues to pursue its expansionist designs.

'Pro-Israel' Media Said Portraying Iran as Oppressor

NC1911111392 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Nov 92 p 2

[Editorial: "New Plots To Seek Iran's Annihilation"]

[Text] The Western allies' war against Iraq two years ago, though appearing sudden and spontaneous, wouldn't probably have been made possible without the Zionist-led propaganda campaign against Iraq in the months preceding the attack. Saddam's heretofore unpublicized crimes against innocent Iranians and Kurds were suddenly unveiled and introduced to the public as a measure of his savagery likely to be directed at Israel. The dictator's reckless remarks, originated from his personal distaste against the Zionist state, were blown out of proportion, taken out of context, interpreted as satanic words, and then used as a justification to destroy Iraq.

And now the same strategy is being adopted by the pro-Israel media to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran and set the stage for a possible aggression against this country in the future. In a relentless drive to muddy the image of this country, Iran has been accused of undermining Arab regimes friendly ties to the West, and of seeking domination and influence in the regions of the Persian Gulf and the Central Asia. This week, too, an Israeli magazine reported that Iran is providing financial and military aid to the Islamic Hamas Movement in the occupied Palestinian territories.

While it is true that Iran shares no sentiments with the Zionist regime, we, nevertheless, have no intention of following in Saddam's footsteps. Iran is no Iraq. Our cause is not similar to that of an ambitious dictator in pursuit of personal goals. We Iranians pride ourselves in being guided by lofty principles and in having leaders who spearhead a popular movement in the Islamic world. Though staunchly opposed to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and South Lebanon, we are nevertheless determined to express our opposition to injustice through legal and legitimate means. We well understand that defying the international laws, irrespective of their fairness, could play into the hands of our enemies. If Saddam's maniacal style eclipsed the truth in his statements against Israel, we are determined not to allow the Zionists a second chance to distort the facts and portray us as the oppressor, and seek our annihilation.

Paper Speculates on Clinton Foreign Policy

NC1911155692 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Nov 92 p 2

[Editorial: "New World Order or Course of Rationalism?"]

[Text] Questions often raised through various contacts with TEHRAN TIMES political desk in recent days have been: Why is there so much opposition to Clinton in the political and journalistic circles in this country even before he has assumed power and before he has had a chance to take a position against the Islamic Republic of Iran? Could this all be because he is a Democrat? What follows is an attempt to answer these questions.

We have not yet observed a major difference between Democratic and Republican administrations with respect to their approach to humanitarian issues and questions relating the Third World, especially Iran. Therefore, it is a president's action which is important to us, rather than his political affiliation.

In recent speech relating to Iran, Clinton raised the same issues as a precondition for establishing ties with Iran, and this fact might be the reason behind the negative reaction to his victory in this country. Otherwise, the Democrats have been no more kind to us than their Republican counterparts. For example, wasn't it the Republicans Reagan and Bush who orchestrated the massive political and propaganda campaigns against this country? Wasn't it they who targeted a civilian airliner with 329 passengers on board in our own skies? Wasn't it the Republican administrations who continued to a block billions of dollars of our assets? Wasn't it they who aided Iraq in its aggressions against Iran—information about which has come out both during the Persian Gulf war and the recent presidential campaign in the United States?

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a number of times shown that it bears no animosity against the American people and our goodwill has been expressed on various occasions.

We put in a great deal of effort to free Americans and other Western hostages in Lebanon, but received no positive response with respect to freeing of our own captives in that country.

Bearing all that in mind, we find no difference between the Democratic and Republican parties and would consider the leaderships from either parties our enemy as long as they pursue their colonial aims. With respect to Clinton, and considering the views of certain analysts as to which course he would pursue in the future, we would have to wait and see whether he will look inward and attend the more urgent domestic problems or continue the interventionist policies of his predecessors offered in the form of New World Order. Will he take a rational course to ensure the interest of the American people and that of the rest of the world, or will he pursue the policy of adventurism? We would know the answer to these questions in the very near future.

Editorial Discusses New U.S. Administration

NC1911214892 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Nov 93 p 1

[Mohammad Sarafraz editorial: "We, the United States, and the Future"]

[Text] Bill Clinton owes his victory to the Zionists and, in general, to the main decisionmaking centers in his country. He is a person who thinks of U.S. leadership instead of world leadership. He was a draft-dodger and organized anti-U.S. demonstrations to protest U.S. intervention in Vietnam when he was a student in London. During the past few weeks, the horrific U.S. networks began organized attacks against Bush, the last example of which was the publication of a confidential document on Bush's colorful role in Irangate and the arms deal. By sending MacFarlane to Tehran, Bush wanted to regulate Iran's behavior toward the United States as it did with China in the seventies. The outcome of Bush's theory on world leadership, referred to as the new world order, was nothing but the emergence of destructive regional wars and the upsetting of the world's security system. On the contrary, the Democrats express more support for intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries through indirect methods, specifically on the pretext of safeguarding human rights. In other words, we should expect the U.S. role of world policeman to decrease. But this does not mean that intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries will stop. Democratic President Carter formed the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force and threatened to use military force if U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf were threatened. And with his abortive military attack on Tabas, he blocked the way to the White House for the Democrats for 12 years.

Therefore, the thought of U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf as a tactical move—which is not in any way guaranteed to succeed—should not be ruled out. Meanwhile, the Democrats' unconditional support for Israel will not only plunge the peace talks into ambiguity but will also pave the grounds for fresh Israeli aggressions. It should be noted that Israel's Labor Party, which wants to draw Hafiz al-Asad like al-Sadat to the negotiating table and into peace agreements, is the same party that carried out several wars against the Arabs. Therefore, we should anticipate a further exacerbation of insecurity and a further intensification of conflicts in the world, primarily in the Middle East.

Some believe that we should recognize our place in the power hierarchy in the world to succeed in our economic reconstruction, and that we should behave ourselves with regard to the powerful countries. They believe that we should avoid any step that may lead to a confrontation with the United States and other big powers. These people actually consider success in economic reforms to be contingent on "changing the political stances" of the system (!) into stances that reject "support" for Hizballah cells throughout the world.

Of course, they first refer to the issue of military support and then political, economic, and other supports. [as published]

As for the theory that we should be assimilated into the world system to carry out economic reforms, this is similar to what Russia did. We are now witnessing the bitter outcome of this act; the reforms did not take place and the West did not carry out its promises. A weak government, facing a mountain of problems, is anticipating its downfall!

A world order to which much lip service is paid does not physically exist. This is a chaotic world in which no country has recognized its position. The United States has neither created a unipolar system nor is in charge of so-called world leadership. The economic powers of Europe and Japan have not agreed on how to divide up the booty! In addition, the objectives and organization of the United Nations and Security Council are facing chaos.

Therefore, altering the Islamic "revolution" into an economic "reform" will mean giving up our identity for nothing!

On the national day of struggle against world arrogance, the people and the officials will not be fooled by the analyses being propounded, and they will continue the clear the path of the Islamic Revolution, which is the door for entry into the world movement of Islam.

U.S. 'Propaganda' on Human Rights Criticized

NC1911214792 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 31 Oct 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Swan Song of Human Rights"]

[Excerpts] A number of U.S. senators called on the United Nations on Wednesday [28 October] to take steps against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which they say has violated human rights and supports terrorism. News reports indicate that in their note, the senators told the United Nations: We believe the time has come for the free world to join hands against Iran's exploitations. It is said that this note was instigated by the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]. [passage omitted]

None of the nations that have been the targets of American attacks in the past century believe that the Yankees believe in human rights; no one can say that this is the end of American crimes. Undoubtedly the Muslim Iranian nation has realized what the true meaning of human rights is. But the monafeqin!?

What can be expected of people who riddle the bodies of children with bullets, who annihilate families on charges of having divorced themselves from ideological beliefs, who issue numbers for human beings like the Nazis used to so that everyone has a father named Mas'ud [reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi and perhaps to coded messages to MKO agents broadcast by the group's Voice of Mojahed radio] and a mother named Maryan [Rajavi's wife], and who pave the grounds for the entry of a foreign occupying force into their homeland?

The note [by the senators] is a warning to our country's officials, who are undoubtedly aware of the propaganda that the United States has recently begun on the Islamic Republic's expansionism, increased military power, and threat to its neighbors. [passage omitted]

West Criticized for Reports on Arms Purchases

NC1911133192 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Nov 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Western Media Clawing at Iran"]

[Text] It has become the fashion for Western media to blame Iran for the purchase of arms, particularly nuclear arms, whenever any official from Iran travels abroad.

All this bother surfaces despite the fact that Iran is so fully preoccupied with the country's reconstruction plans and with the improvement of its ailing economy. The Western media never seems to tire of portraying Tehran as the main purchaser of weapons in the region.

All too well known is the fact that certain regional countries have been buying the most sophisticated of modern weapons worth billions of dollars and yet none raises a voice.

Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati is in India now, where he is attending a routine joint commission meeting. But Western news media have linked the Iran official's visit to a plan to purchase an atomic reactor. This report and others of the same dye are indeed quite baseless and there is no truth to them at all.

Nevertheless, who can gainsay the fact that Iran has every right to purchase the weapons it requires? And as its officials have said many times, these weapons will be used for nothing but defensive purposes. So Iran has every justification to do as it pleases, particularly in view of the fact that the war with Iraq in 1980-88 was begun by the Baghdad regime without the least justification and was designed to provoke and draw this country into a prolonged conflict.

Then why should Iran not be wary of its own security, when it is plain for all to see that the region is fraught with political developments of a highly sensitive nature and unforeseen situations can crop up any time without the least notice? Surely Iran has a right to stay ready to meet any such exigency.

Yet it is also only well too known that the administration of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani focuses primarily on its reconstruction plans as a first priority. Hence such stories as are bandied about on phantom arms purchases by Iran have no truth to them whatever, or are otherwise designed to taint this country when it is moving on a progressive path.

Iran's policies are surely crystal clear to all. It wants friendly relations with all countries, with the exception of a few which it has very good reasons for not wanting to curry favor with.

Any who looks benignly on Iran should be happy with the motives that lie behind the current visit by Dr. Velayati to India, which is for the opening of doors wider for greater and more comprehensive cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The strategic and geographical situation in which the two countries are placed calls in every wise for the joining of hands together with other friendly regional neighbors in an effort to play their proper part in the great historical role assigned to all of them—to create stability, peace and tranquility in the region. This is something that millions upon millions of people look forward to and await eagerly and hope will last for a long, long time to come.

Mubarak Accused of 'Propaganda War' Against Iran

LD1911154992 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—During the past few weeks the regime of Husni Mubarak and his media have been carrying out an hysterical propaganda war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The attacks against Tehran started soon after the outbreak of a dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates over the Abu Musa Island.

The plethora of articles and analyses in the Egyptian state-controlled press are aimed at convincing the Persian Gulf Arab rulers that they are under threat from "Iranian expansionism" and that Egypt is ready to protect them, of course against a handful of petro-dollars.

Speaking in his parliament last week, Mubarak said Egypt was in the same "ditch" with the Persian Gulf Arab states and that he would protect their interests and rights.

The Persian Gulf Arab states are well aware that a regime like that of Husni Mubarak is incapable of protecting its own self and hence totally incompetent to offer protection to others.

For this reason the Damascus Declaration which the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council had signed last year with Egypt and Syria to form an Arab defence force is already a dead letter.

But far from achieving its ulterior motives abroad, the Mubarak regime has suffered blows after blows on its own turf. Large number of Egyptians demonstrated against the regime for its indifference shown towards the thousands of victims of the earthquake that struck Cairo in October.

The regime stopped Islamic organisations from offering aid to the quake victims fearing that Islamists would gain popularity at the expense of the rulers.

In the elections for local councils in November, a mere five percent of the voters turned out to cast their ballot, giving ammunition for the opposition paper AL-WAFD to describe the rule of Husni Mubarak as the "regime of 3 percent."

The ruling National Democratic Party was accused of massive vote rigging and malpractices aimed at hindering the Popular Islamic Movement from capturing the few seats for which elections were held.

Mubarak's claims of democracy and freedom are as hollow as the trunk of a rotten tree. The country is being ruled by a state of emergency imposed at the time of Anwar Sadat's assassination in October 1981.

The regime recently passed a new legislation giving the police the right to lock up anybody suspected for terrorist acts, without any charge or trial, thus virtually turning Egypt into a police state.

Scores of people, suspected of belonging to Islamic groups, are being arrested daily on trumped up charges of "sedition" or for "attempts to topple the regime." Such charges have become a familiar pattern, used by successive regimes in Egypt.

The Egyptian regime's campaign to counter and discredit Islamic thought in the country, and particularly those ideas connected with the Islamic Movement, has witnessed a serious escalation.

The mouthpiece of the regime, the AL AHRAM newspaper, has been publishing a stream of articles to discredit Islam and promote the secularist path.

The paper advocates that "Islamic extremism" has to be uprooted if the original pro-Western secularist line of progress is to be maintained.

The regime last April officially authorized the establishment of the Arab Democratic Nasserist Party, but prevents the Muslim Brotherhood from being granted legal status.

The ordinary Egyptian is daily lectured about "Iranian threats" to the Persian Gulf Arab states, to Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia and about its support to "terrorist groups" in [words indistinct] and Afghanistan.

Recent successes achieved by the Sudanese Army against the rebels in the south and the victory of the Mojahedin in Afghanistan has disoriented the official policy-making and media bodies of Egypt. Cairo was hoping that the Western-backed rebellion in south Sudan would succeed and limit the pressure of the growing Islamic movement in the country.

Egypt has hosted the secular Sudanese opposition providing them with facilities and support. Cairo has also picked a quarrel with Khartoum over the Halayeb border

area. The Mubarak regime is also envious over the growing relations between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Sudan.

As for developments in Afghanistan, the Mubarak regime was disheartened over the victory of the Mojahedin and over Iran's role to resolve the Afghan crisis peacefully.

In line with U.S. policy, Egypt had distanced itself from the Mojahedin groups after the collapse of the Soviet Union so as not to be labeled as a supporter of "Islamic fundamentalism."

Now that its links with the new Islamic government in Kabul has weakened, the regime of Hosni Mubarak cannot demonstrate to the West that it also has influence in faraway Muslim states.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Muslims are being slaughtered in their thousands, the Cairo regime is ignoring their plight, but under instructions from the White House it is making noises of support for Muslim republics in Central Asia to promote Western interests.

The West hopes that "moderate" Egyptian influence in the Muslim republics could ward off any rise of "radical" Islamic groups that could threaten Western interests.

The debt-ridden Mubarak regime is also at a delicate point of negotiations for new loans with the International Monetary Fund, and hence must be keen to demonstrate its cooperation on the issue of secularization and westernization.

The hysterical attacks against Iran and Islamic "fundamentalism" by the Mubarak regime reflects a deep-seated crisis of bankruptcy and a servility to the Western powers that now wish to see Egypt fully secularized, so that they can feel secure about its position in the region as an agent of the "new world order."

Egypt is the only Arab country to have signed a U.S.-brokered treaty with the Zionist state. Its external backers, especially the U.S. and Israel, will not relinquish control over Egypt so easily. The entire system in Egypt is colonial in style and content.

Hosni Mubarak, who was an air force officer, is accustomed to obeying orders from his superiors, including from Washington.

Envoy to U.N. Criticizes Resolution on Balkans

LD1911114692 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 19, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi in a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali here Wednesday criticized the U.N. Security Council for adoption of the Resolution 787 last Monday which only calls for severance of the economic blockade of Serbia and Montenegro.

Kharrazi said that the Islamic countries expected the council to send a decisive message to the Serbs to stop their crimes against Bosnian Muslims.

Speaking to IRNA after the meeting, the Iranian envoy said that the Security Council should have set a deadline for the Serbs to stop their anti-humanistic and aggressive acts and lift the military embargo against Bosnia if Serbs violated the rules.

He said he had told the U.N. chief that even threats to lift military sanctions against B-H would prompt the Serbs to reconsider their criminal behavior.

The Security Council in its latest resolution has only tightened the embargo against Bosnia and strengthened sanctions against Serbs.

According to Kharrazi, Butrus-Ghali said during the meeting that the only solution to the B-H crisis is through peaceful means adding that the world states are not ready to take a collective measure in regards to the Bosnian crisis.

Kharrazi also reviewed the issues related to Iraq with the U.N. chief and briefed him on the outcome of the recent Iran-Turkey-Syria talks in Ankara on northern Iraq and urged the world organization to extend its humanitarian activities to southern Iraq as well.

The two sides also discussed the Persian Gulf issue and reiterated the need for strengthening security in the region, Kharrazi said.

The Iranian envoy also met with the Bulgarian President of the 47th U.N. General Assembly Stoyan Ganev and discussed the need to assist Afghanistan in its reconstruction and urged further U.N. cooperation in this regard.

Kharrazi and Ganev exchanged views on holding a conference on reconstruction of Afghanistan with participation of Afghanistan's neighboring countries, the U.N. and other involved parties.

Sudan Envoy: UN Should Lift Embargo on Bosnia

LD1611093292 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Sudanese ambassador here 'Abd'al-Rahman Muhammad Sa'id says the United Nations is a tool in the hands of the Western powers. "The Muslim countries should force the United Nations to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia," he said in an interview with IRNA.

The ambassador said the situation in the war-stricken Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H), was a very difficult humanitarian problem of "conscience" and called as "nasty" the Serbian forces crimes in B-H.

Elsewhere in his interview, Ambassador Sa'id described as "fabrications" the reports spread by the Western

media last month alleging that four Iranian revolutionary guards had been captured by Sudanese rebels in the south of the country.

The ambassador said that the West, frightened of Tehran-Khartoum cordial relations, intended to disturb bilateral relations between the two countries.

"They think that Sudan is going to be another Iran," said the Sudanese ambassador adding that Sudan would not ask for help from any country because it had a very good army based on its popular forces.

Sa'id called as "improving and promising" Tehran-Khartoum relations and added that the two countries were cooperating in the economic, agricultural and educational fields.

Pointing to Tehran-Khartoum trade exchanges, the ambassador said Sudan would provide Iran with agricultural products and meat. On the other hand, it looked for Iranian agricultural and small industries machineries and electronic instruments.

He referred to the activities of the Iranian Ministry of Construction Jihad in Sudan and said a joint venture project, called the "peace highway," had been started by the ministry in Sudan for building a road linking a port city in the central part of the country to the southern city of "Malakal."

Referring to Bill Clinton's election as the new U.S. president, Sa'id expressed hope that Clinton would follow a "moderate" policy towards the Third World countries. He accused former U.S. President George Bush of being a CIA agent.

The ambassador also said that the "war" in southern Sudan was the "main" reason for the existing starvation in the country.

He added that Sudan had over-production this year and the year before in the field of agriculture, but that the war in the south had forced many of the people to flee to other parts of Sudan resulting in serious food shortage in those areas.

Tehran UNESCO Meeting on Central Asia Viewed

LD1411210192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] The International Congress on Expansion of Scientific and Cultural Cooperation in Central Asia and the neighbouring states, sponsored by UNESCO, opened in Tehran, today. The five-day congress is being held with the participation of ministers and cultural and scientific representatives from 26 countries, with the cooperation of Iran's Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. This international congress aims at surveying various regional resources and spheres of Central Asia and the neighboring states in bringing about the bolstering of cultural and scientific cooperation amongst these states.

In justifying their reasons for convening the congress, the agenda of the session has noted that in the Central Asian regions, stretching from Ashgabat in the west, to Alma-Ata in the east, there has emerged a completely new situation of political geography which has paved the way for international cooperation in it. Five of the republics of the former Soviet Union have formed a multi-national family, and now that their economic frontiers are being removed, all of them are intensely desirous of preserving their cultural identity, and move beyond the restricted affiliation and dependence, to establish a society based on common values and objectives. These five states, which in fact constitute a big civilization, with the help of the vigilance and awareness of their people who were suppressed for many years, and through reliance on their ethnic, linguistic, and religious links, can create a bright future for Central Asian region.

The convening of this UNESCO-sponsored congress and participation of the UNESCO Director-General, Federico Mayor, in it, have provided many favorable grounds in Tehran, so that top experts from 26 states preserve their plans and papers on the mode of future cooperation. Even though this congress is being convened for the first time, considering the age-old background of science and culture in Central Asia, it will definitely be a very good start for this region, in its effort to regain its original status in international scientific and cultural relations.

In its capacity as the host of the International Congress on Expansion of Scientific and Cultural Cooperation in Central Asia, Tehran has shown its [word indistinct] attention to the revival of the Islamic and national values of the states in this region, and also extended its all-round help to deepen the ties of these countries with the international scientific circles. Also, the role of UNESCO in offering help and cooperation to these states is of great significance. Undoubtedly, further contacts and development of the scientific and cultural co-operation in this region will lead towards deescalation of the existing political tension and ethnic differences, and UNESCO has an important status in establishing such contacts. Therefore, bolstering links amongst the regional countries, and also between these countries and their neighbors, will (?dynamize) scientific and cultural cooperation at international level.

Should the convening of this congress in Tehran manage to set up such link under the supervision of UNESCO, it will succeed in adopting a vital set towards the return of the Central Asian states to the sphere of the scientific and cultural cooperation. Indisputably, the papers and speeches at the congress will highlight the role and significance of Central Asia, in scientific and cultural circles, thus entailing further efforts for setting up firm links of this region with other international cultural circles in the future.

Minister Says Tehran IDB Session 'Successful'

LD1411151492 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh on Sunday said that the recently-concluded session of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Tehran was one of the most successful IDB meetings.

Speaking to reporters on the outcome of the IDB meet in Tehran, Nurbakhsh said that more than 30 ministers of commerce, economy and finance and seven central bank governors of the 45 member organization took part in the Tehran session.

During the meeting, he said, IDB approved the establishment of a fund for assisting less developed countries with an initial capital of dlrs. 100 million.

The IDB also agreed to give a 100,000 dollar grant annually to four Islamic universities in Malaysia, Egypt, Nigeria and Bangladesh, Nurbakhsh said.

The minister said several meetings and symposiums were held on the sidelines of the 17th annual meeting of IDB including a symposium on trade promotion among member states which took the primary steps towards setting up an Islamic common market.

The Islamic Development Bank approved the payment of dlrs. 8.5 million in loan to the Tehran-based Sharif Technical University to purchase laboratory equipment and another dlrs. 20 million to the state railways organization, he said.

Economic, Cultural Delegation Leaves for Baku

LD1611111592 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Minister of Cooperatives Gholam Reza Shafe'i, heading an economic and cultural delegation, left here for Baku Monday to take part in the first session of Irano-Azerbaijan joint economic commission.

Shafe'i is accompanied by officials from Ministries of Agriculture, Construction Jihad, Commerce, Oil, Energy, Road and Transportation, Islamic Culture and Guidance as well as the Central Bank.

Before departure, Shafe'i told reporters that Iran and the neighboring Azerbaijan Republic will sign several economic and cultural agreements and discuss issues of mutual interest.

According to him, the value of bilateral exchanges amounts to dlrs. 250 million.

The week-long session is to be opened in Baku this afternoon.

Kazakh, Iranian Officials Discuss Nuclear Arms

NC2011071492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Batirbu-Uli [Tokayev] met in Tehran with Mahmud Va'ezi, Iranian deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, and stressed the need to expand bilateral relations. Referring to efforts by some countries to influence the policies of Central Asian countries, he said: Many efforts are being made to propound falsities such as the sale of nuclear arms to Iran and thus to separate us from each other.

Va'ezi also welcomed the expansion of relations between the two countries and rejected rumors in the Western media about Iranian efforts to gain access to nuclear arms. He said: Iran is not seeking the nuclear weapon and believes that our region should be free from such weapons.

Russia Said Involved in Tajik 'Muslimocide'

NC2011064992 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Oct 92 p 18

[Hosrow Zia'i commentary: "Moscow and Islam"]

[Text] Current developments in Tajikistan indicate that the global threat of "Muslimocide" has found favorable ground on which to grow in Tajikistan.

The extensive crimes perpetrated by the extremist communists (during the recent clashes) against Muslims in Tajikistan took place with the visible and invisible hands of Moscow.

Confronting Islam and removing it from the political structure of the CIS is the primary principle in the CIS's policy. Therefore, the fierce onslaught against the Muslims, the destruction of dozens of mosques, and... [ellipsis as published] in Tajikistan form one of the links in the chain of the global "fight against Islam."

Many political analysts believe that despite Russia's pivotal effort to play a strong domestic and international role, the CIS has faced many failures. In other words, the inability of the CIS to justly solve its domestic problems has started a countdown to its disintegration. Therefore, Moscow considers it necessary to return to old tools and mechanisms to impose its power and centralism to preserve the CIS. Thus, any serious separatist tendency that conflicts with the CIS's objectives is fiercely fought. Many facts show that in the new political organization (the CIS), Muslims and their rights are being trampled on in various ways. The main reason for this can be found in Moscow's hostile policies toward Islam in the CIS.

Tajikistan is now facing a "political conflict" between the traditional pro-Moscow forces and Islamic forces. Moscow's tacit and sometimes overt support for its supporters in Tajikistan is the main reason for the instability there.

Moscow's "big mistake" is that it does not want to accept the historic fact that the political culture of Central Asia in its new form (Islam and....) have potential differences with the traditional power structure in the political group of the CIS. Ultimately Moscow will have to give a more logical reply to the process of "liberation" of the political forces in these republics. "Tajikistan today" belongs to the world of Islam and the preservation of its former and defunct ties with Moscow—and that only through force—will definitely not have positive repercussions on Moscow and, ultimately, on the CIS.

Minister: Nicaragua Must Clear Debts to Iran

LD1411180392 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Tehran will expand relations with Managua on condition the latter acknowledged its debts to Iran, Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, told his Nicaraguan counterpart Jose Bernard Pallais Arana here Saturday.

Va'ezi saw no obstacles in the way of promotion of Tehran-Managua economic-political relations once the above issue is settled. "We welcome Nicaragua's keenness for expansion of ties," he added.

Arana who is here at the head of a ranking eco-political delegation said the the Islamic republic is a great regional country and backs cooperation among the third world and the Nonaligned Movement states. He added that his country was keen on expansion of ties with Iran in various economic and political spheres.

Referring to Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) and the crimes being committed by the Serbs in the Balkans, Arana commented "this is a dark stain on the face of the world and we severely condemn the (Serbian) crimes."

Anti-Chemical Warfare Maneuvers Held in Yazd

LD2011100892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent on Iran's "first comprehensive exercises to counter chemical weapons," held in Yazd on 19 November]

[Text] This maneuver featured combat, support, and logistics battalions engaging in an area covering 50 sq km of the desert north of the city of Yazd. Using their full gear, the participating units broke through the advance enemy lines in the face of chemical bombing by the hypothetical enemy. They then attacked pre-arranged ground targets.

Massive artillery and tank fire backed the action in the said exercises. Other light and heavy weapons were also used.

The commander of the ground force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], the deputy operations chief of the Joint Staff, the commander of the Samen-al-A'emah garrison, the deputy governor general of Yazd in charge of political-security affairs, and a number of the IRGC commanders and provincial officials were supervising the exercises.

Pakistan

Situation 'Normal' Following 18 November March

BK1911144492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] The situation in Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and other cities remained normal today. All commercial and business centers and shops remained open and normal business activity continued in the city. Normal traffic movement also continued on the roads.

In Karachi, a spokesman of the Sindh provincial government has contradicted a news carried by a section of the press that PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance's] leader, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, is under detention. The spokesman said neither Ms. Benazir Bhutto has been put under detention, nor Bilawal House or 70 Clifton [Bhutto's residence] has been declared subjails.

The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika, has said the government is always prepared for a dialogue with the opposition in the national interest. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said the IJI [Islami Jumhoori Ittehad] government never closed the door for negotiations on all matters of national interest. He stressed that the government will not allow anyone to create chaos in the country. He said the people are fed up with purposeless demonstrations because they want peace and progress.

The Senate today held inconclusive discussion on the admissibility of three identical privilege motions regarding the detention of Mr. Ejaz Ali Jatoi, Syed Abdullah Shah, and Syed Iqbal Haider for sometime in Rawalpindi yesterday. Besides these three senators, Mr. Manzur Ahmad Ghichki, Mr. Abdur Rahim Mondokhel, Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, and Dr. Abdul Ghaffar Jatoi pleaded for the admission of the motions. Deputy chairperson, Dr. Noor Jahan Panezai, who was presiding over the session read out a communication from the district magistrate of Rawalpindi that these three senators were taken into protective custody in view of the situation relating to law and order and later they were released. The interior minister, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, tracing the track record of the Pakistan People's Party, said it was responsible for the dismemberment of the country. He was still on the floor when the house adjourned for Zohar [midday] prayers and later till Sunday [22 November] due to lack of quorum. The interior minister told newsmen that Mr. Iqbal Haider, Mr. Ejaz Jatoi, and Syed Abdullah Shah were addressing a public gathering in Rawalpindi in violation of Section

144 [banning assembly, of four or more persons]. He said the administration moved these senators to some safe place and feeling the apprehension of a clash between rival groups the honourable senators went to their homes after the restoration of normalcy.

Bhutto Demands Elections

BK1911155492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Karachi, Nov 19 (AFP)—Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said Thursday she had only a one-point agenda for any talks with the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif—the holding of fresh elections.

"The talks can only be held as equals and not as masters and slaves," the former premier said at her first news conference since the government expelled her from Islamabad and Rawalpindi after the opposition were prevented from mounting a mass march on the capital on Wednesday. She also said she would only agree to a dialogue if the government disbanded special tribunals, stopped "witchhunts" against the opposition, released all political activists and agreed to the setting up of a government of national consensus.

"Only then can we sit at the negotiating table," Bhutto said, adding that there should be "only a one-point agenda—of holding fair and impartial elections."

Bhutto, her jailed husband, Asif Ali Zardari, and several other opposition members are being tried by the tribunals for alleged misconduct and abuse of power during her 20-month rule which ended in August 1990. But, she said, any final decision regarding the holding of talks with the government rested with the joint leadership of the opposition.

Bhutto said she would leave for Peshawar on Friday to lead a procession of her Peoples Democratic Alliance supporters from nearby Nowshera. She said that for the time being she would not enter Punjab.

Northwest Province Bans Bhutto

BK2011093192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The NWFP [North West Frontier Province] government has banned the entry of Pakistan People's Party [PPP] Chairperson Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Co-Chairperson Benazir Bhutto Sahiba into the province for 30 days under the West Pakistan Order for Protection of Public Peace. This step has been taken for the safety of the people and to maintain law and order.

Abdus Sattar Lalika, federal minister for information and broadcasting, has said that the people have rejected political terrorism by not reacting in any way to the appeal of the People's Democratic Alliance for demonstrations. He said this in Islamabad while reacting to the claim of success by PPP Co-Chairperson Benazir Bhutto at a news conference in Karachi yesterday. He said several ministers and other personalities went to her with an invitation for talks, but she rejected all such offers. She rejected the government's repeated offer to resolving this political dispute through peaceful legal and political means. Referring to the steps taken by the government before the demonstrations, Abdus Sattar Lalika said that there was no loss of life or property as a result of the security arrangements.

At a news conference in Karachi yesterday evening, Benazir Bhutto Sahiba rejected th government's offer for talks to resolve political issues.

Nusrat Bhutto Said Wounded

BK2011004092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] In Pakistan, the opposition leader, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has been banned from the North-West Frontier Province. The Nawaz Sharif government has prevented her from entering or staying in the province for one month as Ms. Bhutto had planned to travel to the province today to lead a procession. Earlier, the government had issued an order banning her from Islamabad. The government also externed [as heard] Ms. Bhutto from Rawalpindi and the capital Islamabad for 30 days. Meanwhile, security has been tightened around parliament in Islamabad. Hundreds of riot police have been deployed to foil any attempt by the opposition to stage the second protest march in the capital. Meanwhile, the federal education minister, Syed Fakhr Imam, told our Islamabad correspondent yesterday evening that the chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, is seriously ill and is under medical treatment in a government guest house 70 km from Lahore. The party spokesman said that Begum Bhutto was wounded when her vehicle was fired upon last Wednesday [18 November] while attempting to lead the long march toward Islamabad.

In Peshawar, the police use-gassed and lathi [baton] charged a PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] procession yesterday as they attempted to proceed toward the capital.

Editorial Urges Rekindling Good Ties With U.S.

BK1711161192 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Nov 92 p 7

[Editorial: "Engaging Washington"]

[Text] While meeting two visiting American Senators, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is reported to have urged the United States to show "a clearer appreciation of Pakistan's threat perceptions and a better understanding of its needs." Talking to the two-member delegation, the President also recalled that in the past the two countries enjoyed "a very cordial relationship." And he assured the Senators that "Pakistan would be glad to work with the US" to restore that relationship in conformity with

its perception of its national interests. The President also emphasized that unless there was a resolution of the Kashmir issue, peace would remain elusive in the subcontinent. This reiterates at the highest level, Islamabad's position: continuing to seek American friendship but in line with its understanding of the national interest. It also wants greater attention to be devoted by the new US administration to Kashmir, which remains the principal stumbling block in normalising relations with India.

While this reiteration is important and when it comes from the President, it carries added weight, there is no getting away from the job that Pakistan's policymakers must seriously address themselves to. And that is how to achieve Pakistan's diplomatic aims as a new administration takes over in Washington. However much the new administration is enmeshed in domestic affairs, it will hardly turn its back on the world. Its policy toward the South Asian region is expected to mark a high degree of continuity with the previous administration's because there is already a broad bipartisan consensus on issues that might affect this region. Indeed if American diplomats in the capital are right in saying that the new administration may be a more activist one than its predecessor on these issues, then policymakers here need to grasp the significance of this and work out its implications for Pakistan. The four issues that are likely to engage the attention of Washington—which are also issues that evoke Congressional concern—are: nonproliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, human rights and narcotics. Pakistan's relations with the US have already atrophied due to the nuclear issue, while the other issues, too, have been obstacles in restoring ties.

The challenge for Pakistani policy makers is how to mend this relationship as a new administration comes in while keeping the country's national interests intact. Simply reiterating policy goals or expressing goodwill is obviously not enough. Some hard and creative thinking needs to be done to evolve ways to achieving these goals. On Kashmir, too, the government needs to ask itself how it can use or channel continuing U.S. interest in the region to secure a peaceful resolution of the issue. Again rhetoric and bland reiterations won't do it. Imaginative diplomacy can. Now is the time to get its policy act together on the nuclear issue as well as Kashmir, if Islamabad wishes to be taken seriously by the new administration and impress its case upon it.

President's Talks With U.S. Senators Viewed

BK1711162592 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Ties with U.S."]

[Text] Talking to visiting US Senators Paul Simon and Howard M. Metzenbaum who called on him in Islamabad, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan recalled that the two countries had very cordial relations and had been together through thick and thin. He assured the senators that remaining within the parameters of its own principles and perception of national interests, Pakistan would be glad to work with the United States for restoring the erstwhile cordiality of relationship and cooperation. The President expressed the hope that the new American Administration would take up Kashmir and other such regional issues and try to remove these irritants in the cause of global peace and security. He added that the United States must show a clearer awareness of Pakistan's threat perceptions and a better understanding of its security and development needs.

Mr. Paul Simon, a senior Democrat Senator, is on a three-day official visit to Pakistan as head of a two member delegation. On arrival at Islamabad airport he said that his visit to Pakistan was only a gesture of goodwill and expressed the hope that relations between Pakistan and the United States would improve in the years to come. He also emphasised the need for maintaining good and close ties between the two countries. However, he expressed the concern of the United States at Pakistan not becoming a party to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It is unfortunate that the visiting Senator had to say that as he should be well aware of Pakistan's consistent stand in the matter. Pakistan has repeatedly expressed its willingness to sign the NPT provided it is done on a bilateral basis. Earlier this year when Sen. Pressler, author of the controversial amendment in the US law, which led to stoppage of American aid to Pakistan two years ago, was here, Pakistan's position was explained to him in detail. He was reminded of the various proposals put forward by Pakistan aimed at keeping the South-Asian region free of nuclear weapons, and was told that it was India which responded to them in the negative. Exempting India from the imposition of the Pressler Amendment despite the fact that it has already exploded an atomic device as far back as in 1974, and foisting it on Pakistan means that it has been singled out for the purpose. This month Pakistan again sponsored a resolution in the current session of the UN General Assembly from declaring South Asia a nuclear weapon-free zone. The resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority, but it was only India and its lone satellite, Bhutan, who voted against it. Pakistan has never been averse to signing the NPT provided India signs it simultaneously. The visit of the Democratic senators at a time of political transition in their own country is an indicator of America's interest in Pakistan. So far as Pakistan is concerned it is also desirous of restoring ties with the United States to the level they touched a few years ago. After an on-the-spot study of the situation prevailing in the region, the visiting senators must have appreciated Pakistan's position and its just stand on various issues. It is now for them and their country to pressure India to shed its obduracy over the Kashmir issue and agree to sign the NPT.

India's Nuclear Policy Viewed

BK1511101192 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Nov 92 p 15

[Editorial: "Denuclearising S. Asia"]

[Text] Among the many causes the United Nations has championed for long without producing any result is that of the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia. For the nineteenth year running, the world body adopted a resolution to that effect on Thursday. And it is unlikely that anything tangible will come out of this move, too. The significant aspect of Thursday's vote was that the resolution was opposed by India, which would be the key member of the proposed denuclearised zone if it comes to be set up. Given the size of its territory, population, resources and military power, New Delhi can jeopardise the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia by simply withholding its consent and cooperation. It is a pity that India once again chose to be obdurate and adopt an obstructionist stand although it now finds itself totally isolated on the issue. Along with Bhutan, a virtual protege, India was the only one to vote against the draft.

New Delhi's non-cooperative stance on the nuclear-free zone issue is incongruous in a world that is moving towards disarmament, at least at the international level. Even earlier, there was little justification for rejecting the Pakistan-sponsored proposal in view of the fact that both the countries of the subcontinent could at no stage afford a nuclear confrontation. But India insisted on linking up its security concern vis-a-vis Islamabad with its arms race with Beijing. The argument ran that since China posed a threat to India's security and was building nuclear weapons, India could not renounce its option to do the same.

Although this line of reasoning was never very valid, it carries even less weight today. That would explain why 14 member states decided to change their position and vote in favour of the resolution on Thursday. They had abstained last year when a similar draft was put to vote. In the first place, China is now a signatory in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which it was not until last year. This should reassure India that some kind of understanding on nuclear disarmament with Beijing is now possible and should be explored. Secondly, recognising the need for an integrated approach, Pakistan has proposed a conference to bring together India and Pakistan along with the US, Russia and China to discuss the nuclear issue in South Asia. This should allow all the concerned states to discuss threadbare the question of denuclearising the region—that is, dismantling whatever nuclear capability India and Pakistan have managed to acquire.

In any case, the time has come for the countries of South Asia to seriously consider the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone. Similar zones have been set up in Latin America and Antarctica. With the thrust of the new world order towards demilitarisation, South Asia should not be left out of this very positive development—also because it has a crucial implications for the socio-economic uplift of this poverty-stricken region. It is up to India and Pakistan to provide the lead in the matter of nuclear disarmament in the region. In the new political environment of the post-cold war era, they can work towards an understanding on this question, before the nuclear military balance emerges as a key factor in their political equations.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Rejects Demands for Resignation

BK1811110492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0629 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Colombo, Nov 18 (AFP)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa has rejected opposition demands for his resignation over the assassination of Navy commander Vice Admiral Clancy Fernando, press reports said Wednesday.

Premadasa told a public meeting in northwest Sri Lanka late Tuesday that the slaying of Fernando by a suspected Tamil suicide bomber here was an "act of terrorism" and such attacks would not disappear if he stepped down, the reports said.

"If I resign, will such cowardly acts of terrorism drop in number," Premadasa was quoted as saying in the English language Island newspaper.

Premadasa said terrorism began when the opposition was in power. The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) accused the government of failing to provide security in the capital and said Premadasa, as defence minister and commander in chief of security forces, must accept blame.

A suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla carried out the suicide attack by ramming his motorcycle into Fernando's car in the high security Galle Face area. Three others in the car and the attacker himself died.

Press reports Wednesday carried a driving licence photograph of a man police claim was the suicide bomber. The identity card was found at the scene of the blast.

However, senior military officials said they were sceptical about the police claim and it was highly unlikely that the attacker would carry his own identity papers, especially on such a mission.

Police and military authorities have tightened security in the capital as well as in suburbs in preparation for the planned Sri Lanka-New Zealand cricket series which now hangs in the balance.

The Island newspaper, in a hard-hitting editorial attacked the authorities for dismissing Monday's assassination as an "isolated act of terrorism."

Western diplomats and political analysts said the timing of the assassination was devastating for the government which was trying hard to win foreign investor confidence with assurances of normalcy in the capital.

Sri Lanka's first ever export exhibition opens here Wednesday.

"If the highest commanders of the forces which are hunting the LTTE cannot be given security, if the capital city cannot be defended from infiltration by the enemy, what hope is there for this country," the Island said.

Defence officials said a major overhaul of security had already been ordered in a bid to strengthen protection to senior military officers.

Tiger guerrillas who are leading a 20-year-old campaign to establish an independent Tamil homeland in the island's northeast have carried out several bomb attacks in the capital in the past seven years.

Identity of Killer of Navy Chief Established

BK1711123092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Colombo's Police Crime Detective Bureau [CDB] has positively established the identity of the suspected LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist suicide bomber who assassinated Naval Commander Admiral Clancy Fernando on Monday [16 November] as (Subramaniam Logeswaran), a 22-year old youth from Jaffna.

Police sources told LANKAPUVATH that a special squad of detectives from CDB headquarters investigating the terrorist bombing which killed Adm. Fernando and three of his aides had also traced their lodging house at (Idaleveen Street) in Pettah where the terrorist bomber had resided even on the night previous to the suicide bombing. The lodge-keeper is now in police custody.

Police sources said detectives had got the early breakthrough when they picked up vital clues including parts of the riding licence of the suicide bomber at the scene of the crime at Galle Face Center Road, Colombo. The investigators were also able to trace the killers national identity card which carried his name, address and photograph. Detectives also traced the motor sales [as heard] dealer at Gampaha from whom the terrorist had purchased the motorcycle, a Honda CM-125, for 24,000 rupees. The admiral's Mercedes-Benz car was rammed by the suicide bomber riding the motorcycle. The suicide bomber was identified by both the Gampaha motor car dealer and the lodge-keeper where (Subramaniam Logeswaran) had resided from the day he purchased the motorcycle on June 10th this year. Police sources said more arrests were imminent.

Official's Bodyguards Shot by Gunmen

BK2011075292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Colombo, Nov 20 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen shot and wounded a bodyguard of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's top aide outside his home here Friday while another grenade attack left two more wounded elsewhere, police said.

The police security guard was shot when he tried to question two suspicious men who were hovering around the residence here of K.H.J. Wijayadasa, the secretary to the President, police said.

They said it was not immediately clear if the gunmen had targetted a VIP passing through Colombo's Jawatte Road area or if they were local gangsters trying to settle scores with rivals in the area.

Wijayadasa was at his home when the shooting took place. The attackers exploded a grenade and escaped in a hijacked car which was later found abandoned, police said.

In another unrelated incident, unidentified attackers lobbed a grenade outside the main courts complex here and wounded two litigants, police said.

Both incidents came amid government warnings that Tamil suicide bombers may carry out more attacks in the capital after Monday's assassination here of navy commander Clancey Fernando.